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Near East & South Asia

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LD241320 [Editorial Report]

Israel

Israeli authorities must end the riots, impose order, and restore normal life before holding discussions on what political steps should be taken, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir stated in a Jerusalem television interview. Negotiations and efforts to achieve a peaceful solution should not be conducted under pressure, threats, and fear of murderous attacks, he said. Reiterating his suprise at the "solidarity with the PLO" displayed by Arab citizens of Israel, he said they are "embarking on a downhill road" and warned that if they refuse to pursue the road of loyal citizenship and peaceful coexistence, "the conclusions we will draw will be very harsh."

Asked about U.S. criticism of Israeli policy, Shamir said he deeply regrets it, but "occasional differences of opinion crop up even with one's best friend," and cooperation between the two countries has reached a "record peak" in spite of current differences. A Foreign Ministry communique broadcast by IDF radio likewise noted that Israel "regrets and differs with" U.S. stands on the events in the territories, expressing hope that the United States, "as Israel's true friend," will be "most particular about taking stands which can be interpreted as support for radical elements." The Government Press Office published a statement by the Ministry that strongly rejected the "one-sided" UN Security Council resolution, which "makes no mention whatsoever of those hostile elements attempting to force their will upon the civilian population" through "violence and terrorism."

Regarding the current situation in Gaza and the West Bank, Jerusalem radio reported no major disturbances 23 December, adding that IDF sources believe the wave of arrests and threats of deportation have achieved their purpose. To accomodate the new detainees, estimated by Palestinian sources at over 300, the IDF has opened a new prison in the Hebron Hills and has expanded a jail in Gaza, the radio disclosed.

In a statement to the Knesset, broadcast by IDF radio, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin warned that Israel is determined to prevent violent riots and "increase its activities against PLO terrorist elements wherever they are." Israelis will fight together with their "vast" might against anybody using violent means to undermine their full control over the territories. The military authorities will have greater freedom to close down schools and other institutions that serve as "hotbeds of incitement to terror and violations of public order," Rabin noted. He urged Palestinians not to be tempted by PLO "incitement," asserting that "from the days of Mufti Hajj Amin al-Husayni to the days of 'Arafat your leaders have led you from one disaster to another."

The UN Security Council's resolution criticizing Israel was hailed as a "victory" by a PLO spokesman, Radio Monte Carlo reported. The radio also noted that the PLO Executive Committee is currently studying the idea of forming a "provisional Palestinian government" and announcing the establishment of an "independent Palestinian state." However, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf viewed the idea of forming a government-in-exile as "premature," the radio added.

Gulf Conflict

Iranian gunboats attacked and set on fire a large Norwegian tanker in the southern Gulf 23 December, according to shipping sources cited by AFP. Noting that the "Berge Big" was carrying a cargo of Saudi crude, the sources viewed the attack as a retaliation for the Iraqi air raid on supertankers at Larak Island the previous day. Iran also attacked and damaged the Liberian tanker "Stena Concordia" in the wake of the Iraqi raid, AFP reported. Maritime sources cited by INA said the Liberian ship was hit by fire from an Iranian frigate. On the effects of the raid on Larak Island, the Iraqi agency cited a Lloyds report that the bombardment of floating oil reservoirs set fire to 1.4 million tons of oil.

Jordan-USSR

King Husayn stated at a Moscow press conference broadcast by Amman television that he is "fully satisfied" with the results of "all" his talks with Soviet leaders. Husayn had earlier held a final round of talks with Andrey Gromyko, Eduard Shevardnadze, and other Soviet officials, TASS reported, noting that the discussion focused on the Near East problem, the Iran-Iraq war, and bilateral relations. On the first issue, the Soviet side stressed the need to start "practical work" on preparing and convening an international conference, stressing that the latest bloodshed in Israeli-occupied Arab territories proves the need for an urgent solution to the conflict. As for the talks on the "senseless" Iran-Iraq war, TASS cited Gromyko's view that the continuation of the existing "dangerous" situation will inevitably lead to "the possible adoption of additional measures" to secure implementation of Security Council Resolution 598. Gromyko also drew Husayn's attention to the Soviet call for a UN naval force in the Gulf, asserting that this would knock "the trump card" from the hands of "political forces" which are opposing a peaceful settlement and are building tension in the Gulf. Husayn showed understanding for the Soviet approach to ending the Iran-Iraq conflict, TASS added.

Gromyko stated that bilateral relations received a "new boost" from King Husayn's visit, according to TASS, which noted earlier that the two sides signed an agreement on cultural and scientific cooperation.

Iran

Tehran radio broadcast an exhange of letters between the Council of Guardians and Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni concerning the latter's 7 December ruling which permitted the government to enforce binding regulations on private enterprises that use state facilities. The Council expressed concern that the powers given to state monopolies by Khomeyni's ruling may endanger existing economic relationships based on Islamic regulations, noting that people believe the ruling has "opened the door to those who want to use it to bring about any social or economic order." However, Khomeyni indicated in his reply that the 7 December ruling must be adhered to, stressing that the state can "take away from people that which is being utilized by them." He warned "the honorable gentlemen" not to pay attention to "rumors circulated by irresponsible profiteers."

Afghanistan

Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov told journalists in Moscow that troops advancing to relieve the besieged town of Khowst have inflicted over 1,500 casualties on Afghan "counterrevolutionaries," TASS reported. However, he acknowledged that "the distance between the northern group of troops advancing from Gardeyz and the southern group advancing from Khowst is about 40 km." In a related report on the "major military operation" to relieve Khowst, Moscow radio cited an Afghan Defense Ministry claim that 36 foreign advisers are working with the "bandit gangs," including 5 Americans.

One of Britain's top combat cameramen was recently shot dead by bandits during his 15th visit to Afghanistan, London PRESS ASSOCIATION reported.

Lebanon

The Syrian command in West Beirut declared a state of alert following the killing of two Syrian soldiers, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. The "Liberation Battalion" claimed responsibility for the killings, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon noted.

Chad

A military communique broadcast by Ndjamena radio announced that Chadian troops crushed a new infiltration attempt from Sudan by the "Islamic Legion" 22 December. It said 12 of the intruders were killed and 8 taken prisoner in the clash with FANT in the Goz Beida region. However, a Sudanese official cited by SUNA reaffirmed that there are no Islamic Legion units inside Sudanese territory.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Jordan, Other Countries Respond to Rabat Plan

LD231650 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Mauritania, Senegal, Niger, and Bangladesh have welcomed the initiative of His Majesty King Hassan II to hold an urgent meeting of the Jerusalem Committee in Morocco and will be attending this meeting at the foreign ministers level. Jordan and the PLO have already expressed their readiness to participate in this meeting.

ICO Sends Invitations

LD232300 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2230 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] The ICO Secretariat General has sent invitations to the 15 member states of the Jerusalem Committee to attend a meeting of the committee on Monday in Morocco. The Secretariat General of the organization said the committee will discuss the developments and serious incidents which have been taking place in the occupied Arab areas and examine ways to support the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and put an end to the abominable massacres committed by the Israeli occupation authorities against them.

Palestinian Affairs

Islamic Jihad Threatens To Hit Civilians

PM241029 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Dec 87 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Jihad Squads Warn"]

[Text] In a statement issued in occupied Jerusalem and given exclusively to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT and a foreign news agency yesterday, the Organization of "Islamic Jihad Squads in Palestine" warned the Israeli enemy that it will reconsider its commitment to concentrate [attacks] on Israeli military targets and instruments of repression, reminding it that its civilian targets are within the Organization's reach.

'Arafat Interviewed on Gaza, West Bank Unrest

PM231615 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Dec 87 p 3

[Telephone interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Baghdad by Zaki Musa in London; date not given]

[Text] [Musa] How does the PLO chairman assess the continuing heroic uprising in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip?

['Arafat] Our people's uprising began on 24 October last year in support of our besieged kinfolk in the Lebanese camps and in denunciation of the aggression against these camps. The uprising then continued, fluctuating in its intensity from time to time. We should recall the complete boycott of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz on his latest visit to our occupied territory. Then, late last month, the Israeli Cabinet met and decided by a majority vote to use the "iron fist" against our people and masses in the occupied territory, especially in the Gaza Strip.

The recent events began when men manning an Israeli roadblock opened fire on a number of our people on 17 December 1987, killing four people and wounding nine others. The next day the Israelis stormed Al-Shifa' hospital to take the wounded to prison to conceal the crime, particularly because a statement had been issued falsely claiming that what happened was the result of a road accident caused by the reckless driving of the driver of a military vehicle. The situation erupted at that point and events developed in an unprecedented manner in the face of the Israeli Army's barbaric Nazi racist escalation against our people's steadfast and resolute confrontation, in self-defense, of this aggression and this official organized terrorist design.

Then events spread in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including the town of Gaza and the surrounding camps of Jabalya, Al-Shuja'iyah, Al-Rimal, and Al-Shati', and then the town of Khan Yunis and Al-'Aqqad camp, then Dayr al-Balah and the central camps of Al-Burayj, Al-Maghazi, and Al-Nu'aymat, then Rafah and the surrounding camps, then Bayt Manu [name as published] and Lahya [name as published], thus covering all areas of the strip from north to south. The next day they spread to Nabulus and the surrounding camps of Balatah, 'Askar, and Bayt al-Ma' [name as published], then the old city, Bayt Furik [name as published], Hebron, Al-Duhayshah, Dura, Halhul, Bethlehem, 'Aydah camp, Jerusalem, especially the old city, Qalandyah camp, B'ir Zayt, Ramallah, Al-Birah, the camps of Al-Jalazun and Al-Am'ari, then Janin, Tulkarm, and Qalqilyah extending to all parts of the West Bank where the uprising is still raging.

What is happening there now is the more violent and fiery aspect of mounting uprisings against the Israeli enemy and his iron fist in the application of which the Israeli Army has used helicopters, armored cars, gas bombs, including the international banned mustard gas, and piercing incendiary bullets. They stormed Dar al-Shifa' Hospital in Gaza, Nasir Hospital in Khan Yunis, Al-Hilal Hospital in Balatah, the women's union hospital in Nabulus, and the Ramallah hospital, not to mention their storming of houses of worship, universities, and institutes in Hebron, Gaza, Nabulus, Jerusalem, B'ir Zayt, and Bethlehem. They contaminated and urinated into the people's drinking water.

What is now taking place is a premeditated crime planned by Yitzhaq Shamir and carried out by the Israeli Army on the orders of Yitzhaq Rabin, who had been summoned by the U.S. Administration to sign an agreement with it which regards Israel as a NATO state, as a

reward from the U.S. Administration and an encouragement to the ruling military clique in Israel. It should be noted that our people, our women and children, are being killed and wounded by U.S. weapons and by sophisticated U.S. technology, but I should also mention one important fact: That our people have overcome the terror barrier and in fact are using the stones of our holy country to terrify and scare troops armed to the teeth with U.S.-Israeli weapons.

According to the lists of names which have reached me so far, 51 have been martyred, 470 wounded, and 5,000 detained. The Israeli military clique and the hostile media are trying to conceal these facts and the real figures. Shamir has only admitted 3,000 detainees so far.

[Musa] What is the significance of the new situation?

['Arafat] This uprising has proved, just as our people's and masses' steadfastness in the Palestinian camps and just as the Beirut siege and the successful war of attrition in the south against Israeli occupation proved before, that our Palestinian people, through resolve and firm decision, will never give in or relent before they achieve their inalienable national rights, especially their right to live like other people and be free from all kinds of tutelage, occupation, and coercion, and free from any kind of the administrative division which the U.S. Administration and Israel are planning and in which they are trying to involve some Arab sides. Our people will continue this struggle and holy jihad until the Palestinian flag is raised over Jerusalem, the capital of our free independent state, on the basis of the PLO's political program.

[Musa] How likely is the PLO to succeed in its efforts to bring in UN forces to protect the people of the occupied territories?

['Arafat] We have pursued three urgent objectives at the United Nations: the human and civil rights of our masses; the national and political rights of our people; and international protection for our people. The United States, however, is threatening to use its veto, as usual, a matter which confirms the continuous U.S. collusion in Israeli aggression and in the perpetuation of the Israeli occupation of Palestinian and Arab territory.

[Musa] What about the call made by some Israeli generals for withdrawal from the Gaza and Rafah regions in return for understanding with the inhabitants there through their representatives; that is, in return for peace and quiet?

['Arafat] What was said by some Israeli politicians about withdrawal from the Gaza and Rafah regions was actually discussed by the Israeli Cabinet during the meeting I have referred to, the meeting held late last month. It was a proposal reflecting the real dilemma of the Israeli occupation in the face of our people's heroic resistance. This year I have received two similar cease-fire proposals from the Israeli command in southern Lebanon. My reply was that these matters should be raised at an international conference, particularly now that there is international consensus in support of such a conference. The idea has been supported by nonaligned states, African states, Islamic states, Arab states, socialist states, European states, and friendly states. Only the United States and Israel have opposed it.

[Musa] Did you hold any contacts with the Egyptian leadership or with the Italian Government, whose President Cossiga is on a fact-finding visit to occupied Palestine?

['Arafat] Yes, we have held contacts with the Egyptian Government. A high-level Palestinian delegation spent 5 days in Egypt where it met with top Egyptian officials, including President Husni Mubarak, and discussed with them all current Arab and international issues as well as the developments and magnificent uprising of our people in the occupied territory, especially since Egypt, as known, has moral, legal, and political responsibilities vis-a-vis the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

As regards the Italian Government, yes, we have had contacts with it because, in our contacts with the Security Council's permanent members, we seek its help to deliver our messages to the various officials because there are no U.S.-Palestinian relations.

We were surprised by the Italian President's visit to occupied Palestine, although he says that it is not an official visit but a religious visit on the occasion of Christmas. We told him we are unhappy about the timing of the visit while the Israeli military clique is using iron fist tactics against our children, women, and people and is killing, detaining, and terrorizing our people within the framework of the Israeli Government's fascist and racist policy.

It might encourage these Zionist gangs to commit more crimes against our people and kinfolk. Once again we state for the record that we are astonished and pained by this visit while we highly appreciate the principled and unshakable stand of the Italian people, government, and parties in support of the Palestinian people's just struggle.

[Musa] To what extent will the uprising speed up the prospect of an international conference on the Palestinian question?

['Arafat] This uprising will have its sequel not only as far as an international conference is concerned, but also in relation to the course of the Palestinian struggle at all Palestinian, Arab, and international levels. As known, the holding of an international conference is subject to the approval of the United States, which still denies more than 5 million Palestinians the right to self-determination but supports self-determination for 1,800 inhabitants of the Falklands. It rejects Palestinian rights but boasts about the rights of Jews and citizens of the

Soviet Union and other countries. It is as if it can only see through Zionist eyes. Suffice it to mention the scandal when President Reagan gave Mikhail Gorbachev an Israeli-Jewish gift to do with Yeshiva, as if there is nothing in the Christian or American cultures that he could present as a symbolic gift to Gorbachev.

[Musa] You met with a Soviet delegation in Baghdad recently. Did it tell you how the Palestinian question was tackled in the meeting between the two giants?

['Arafat] Yes, Mikhail Sytenko, envoy of the Soviet leadership, did give me details of what happened during the Reagan-Gorbachev meeting in respect to both aspects of the Middle East question, that is the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian question, and the problem of the Gulf and the Iraq-Iran war, as well as the other hot issues discussed. On behalf of the Soviet leadership, Sytenko confirmed to me the consistent Soviet position regarding the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights and the necessity of PLO participation on an equal footing in the international peace conference and all peace moves in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, but Reagan's answers were in the familiar general terms characterizing the U.S. position. The two sides agreed to discuss these matters later.

[Musa] When will you visit Moscow?

['Arafat] I have a new official invitation to visit the Soviet Union. We agreed to set a date, an early date, for the visit later on in view of the current hot situation in our occupied territory and in southern Lebanon, which is witnessing massive Israeli military concentrations, especially east of Sidon.

'Arafat Receives Message from King Hassan

JN231921 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1815 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has received a message from King Hassan II of Morocco dealing with the explosive situation inside the occupied homeland, developments in the popular Palestinian uprising that began 16 days ago, and the latest developments in the Palestine question.

He also received messages from the National Federation of Syrian Students and Youths and from the National Alliance for the Liberation of Syria. The two messages reiterate full support for our people's just struggle under the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative, to regain their full legitimate rights. The messages also hailed our Palestinian people's uprising throughout the occupied homeland for the 16th consecutive day. They condemned the occupation authorities' repression and crimes against our unarmed Palestinian people.

PLO Considers Resolution Palestinian 'Victory'

JN231248 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] In an official reaction to the resolution adopted by the UN Security Council last night concerning conditions in the occupied territory, the PLO considers the Council's resolution to be a victory for the Palestinian people and a step toward convening the proposed international conference to achieve peace in the Middle East.

PLO Spokesman Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman, who announced this stand, thanked all states which had contributed to the adoption of this resolution in the Security Council. He particularly thanked the EC states. The spokesman renewed the request to send UN observers to the occupied territory to ensure the security of civilians.

PLO Spokesman on Independent West Bank State

NC231256 Paris AFP in English 1249 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Tunis, Dec 23 (AFP)—The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) plans to proclaim an "independent" state in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and set up a government in exile, PLO Spokesman Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh said here Wednesday. Mr. 'Abd Rabbuh told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that the PLO Executive Committee was currently meeting in Tunis to discuss the matter. He said that the meeting to discuss the creation of an "independent" state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip followed Tuesday's U.N. Security Council resolution "deploring" Israeli action in the occupied territories, which have been racked by a wave of violent unrest since December 9.

The PLO official said that the Palestinian organization would undertake Arab and international contacts in order to reach its goal. He said that the Security Council vote, which was not however endorsed by the United States, "recognised that the West Bank and Gaza Strip were Palestinian territories." According to reports from U.N. headquarters in New York, the 15-member Security Council resolution introduced a new notion to previous Council texts, based on the 1949 Geneva Conventions which are applicable to the occupied territories. Israel seized the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the aftermath of the 1967 six-day Arab-Israeli war.

Twenty-five Palestinians have been shot dead in clashes with Israeli troops since the violence erupted in the West Bank and Gaza, according to Palestinian sources in Israel. The Israeli Army has confirmed 21 deaths.

Tension was high in the occupied territories Wednesday as the Israeli Government announced it would adopt tough measures to crackdown on Palestinian demonstrators who are protesting Israeli occupation.

A PLO delegation meanwhile handed the Hague-based International Court of Justice, the senior law-making body of the United Nations, a petition denouncing Israeli action in the occupied territories. In the petition, the PLO called on the United Nations to "adopt the necessary resolutions" capable of granting it a mandate to look after the Israeli-occupied territories, a PLO spokesman in The Hague said. He said that some 50 partisans of the PLO accompanied the delegation to the ICJ headquarters.

Khalaf Says Government Idea 'Premature'

JN231905 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] A short while ago, Abu Iyad [Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf] said the idea of establishing a Palestinian government-in-exile is premature. The idea needs consultations on both Palestinian and Arab levels, as well as with our friends in the world, he said.

PLO Official Says Government 'Mere Idea'

JN241025 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1000 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, PLO official in charge of information, today put an end to reports circulated yesterday on the idea of establishing a provisional Palestinian government. In a statement to our radio, Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh declared that a provisional Palestinian government will not be proclaimed now or in the near future. He said a Palestinian government-in-exile is a mere idea for study. 'Abd Rabbuh asserted that the principal task of the PLO is to support the uprising in the occupied territory.

PFLP-GC's Ahmad Jibril Praises Uprising

JN231516 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1250 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Damascus, 23 Dec (SANA)—The PFLP-GC has praised the Palestinian Arab people's great mass uprising in the occupied territories. In a message to the kinfolk in Palestine published here today, PFLP-GC Secretary General Ahmad Jibril said: With your bodies and blazing stones, you are creating glory for Palestine and the Arab nation, giving the revolution its genuine dimensions and contents, and affirming to the entire world that the Palestine question is irresistable and that the peoples' will and determination to be free cannot be buried or turned into papers and numbers in international forums. The message adds: Our unarmed people's uprising in Palestine has affirmed a constant fact—the only language the enemy understands is the language of strength. The message says: The glaring indignation emerging from the lanes of old Jerusalem and from the streets of the West Bank, Gaza, the Triangle, Negev, and Galilee, as well as our revolutionaries' heroic operations against the Israeli enemy war army and strikes at its camps, have constituted a decisive revolutionary response to normalization and liquidation.

Concluding his message, Brother Ahmad Jibril hailed the uprising of the kinfolk inside Palestine, who are writing with stones and blood the nation's history, drawing the features of a popular revolution, and defying the machine of aggression and repression with great resolve, courage, and determination to confront the Zionist schemes and settlement proposals and the course of deviation.

Amnesty International, ICRC Asked for Help

JN232125 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] In Tunis, Brother Bassam Abu Sharif, an adviser [for press affairs] to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, has urged Amnesty International and the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] to intervene immediately to end the crimes of arbitrary detention being perpetrated by the Israeli occupation forces in the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

Bassam Abu Sharif said that so far 6,000 have been detained because they hoisted Palestinian flags and chanted against the occupation, which is within their rights. He added that the occupation forces stormed citizens' houses in Dayr al-Balah, Al-Maghazi, Al-Nusayrat, Al-Burayj, and Jabalyah on the evening of 21 December, indiscriminately arresting men and youths. He added these forces attacked the men and youths with rifle butts and took them in trucks to the Ansar jail. He added that the detainees are being exposed to the ugliest forms of beating and savage torture by the occupation forces.

Concluding, he said: We urge Amnesty International and the ICRC to send missions to investigate these crimes and we ask that they disclose the facts to international public opinion, especially when we know that more than 70 percent of the detainees are under 18 years of age.

PLO Receives 'Positive' Message From Syria

PM241033 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Dec 87 p 1

[Unattributed report: "PLO Leadership Receives 'Positive' Syrian Message"]

[Text] London—A prominent Palestinian official has stated that in the past 2 days the PLO leadership received a positive Syrian message. He added that the message dealt with important issues related to the Arab-Israeli conflict and principled relations between the PLO and Syria.

Chad

FANT: Islamic Legion Pursued After Clash

AB231911 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Communique No 101 issued by the FANT High Command in Ndjamena on 23 December]

[Text] A new infiltration attempt by the Islamic Legion into Chadian territory from Sudan took place on Tuesday, 22 December 1987, in the Goz Beida region. As usual, this attempt came up against the ruthless riposte of the FANT. The clash concluded as follows:

Enemy side: 12 dead, 8 prisoners of war, including the leader known as Bechir Eli Kler. Materiel captured: 16 light weapons and a very large consignment of medical supplies.

FANT side: Nil.

The enemy is in disarry and the pursuit continues.

Libya Claims Actions 'Faked'

JN231305 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Observers in the Chadian capital, Njamena, say tension has increased in the border area between Chad and Sudan. This is due to several isolated clashes that have taken place since the beginning of this month between the FANT and elements of the Islamic Legion, which Colonel al-Qadhdhafi has recruited and deployed near the Sudanese border. According to the same sources, the Legion, which consists of fighters of different African nationalities, is currently engaged in some sort of war of attrition against Chad prior to seizing the proper time to launch a major offensive.

However, the Libyan Jamahiriyah affirms it has nothing to do with these clashes. Tripoli also claims that these actions are faked by the Chadians themselves.

President Appoints Territorial Administrators

AB230641 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] The president of the Republic, El Hadj Hissein Habre, today signed a decree on nominations to posts for territorial adminstration. According to the first article of the decree, the following persons have been appointed to the following posts: Ousmane Boronou, chief of the Dassile administrative post in Batha Prefecture; 'Ali Keke, chief of the Wour administrative post in Borkou-Ennedi-Tibesti Prefecture; and Anar Oueddei, chief of the Moyto administrative post in Chari-Baguirmi Prefecture.

The second article states that the minister of interior and territorial administration is charged with implementing the present decree. This decree goes into effect on the day that those appointed begin work. It will also be published in the official gazette of the Republic.

Egypt

Official on 'Right' To Cancel Camp David Accords

JN241233 Doha QNA in Arabic 1202 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] Dubayy, 24 Dec (QNA)—Today's issue of AL-BAYAN cited Taha al-Farnawani, director of the Palestine Affairs Department in the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, as saying that Egypt has the right now to cancel or freeze the Camp David accords, signed in 1979, because Israel has violated them.

In a statement to the paper, Ambassador Al-Farnawani called on the United States to honor its commitments to which it officially adhered when the accords were signed. These commitments provide for adopting sanctions against the party that does not adhere to the accords. Al-Farnawani said that Palestine is an active member of the Arab League and that the articles and also the implementation of the Collective Arab Defense Pact apply to Palestine. He added that Israeli practices have undermined the security of the entire region.

Israeli Stand on Territories Criticized

Ghali Denounces Rabin Statement

NC231331 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1255 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 23 Dec (MENA)—Egypt has strongly denounced the statement by Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin that Israel intends to use force to put down the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories.

The denunciation came in a statement today by Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, who was commenting on the Israeli defense minister's remarks. Ghali said that Egypt strongly denounces Rabin's statement and notes that it conflicts with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' admission that Israeli acts of violence do not serve peace but harm it.

Dr Ghali noted that Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, recently received a letter from Peres affirming that Israel's use of violence does not serve the cause of peace.

UN Resolution Welcomed

NC231420 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 23 Dec (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has announced that Egypt welcomes the UN Security Council resolution issued this morning on the situation in the occupied Arab territories.

Dr Ghali said that the resolution expresses the international community's denunciation of Israeli policies and practices in the occupied Arab territories, which violate the Palestinian people's rights. It also calls on Israel to adhere to the Geneva Convention on the protection of civilians in time of war.

Ghali noted that the significance of the resolution lies in the fact that it indicates that the deterioration of the situation in the occupied territories is essentially due to the continuation of Israeli occupation.

Ghali said Egypt stresses that it is important for the UN Security Council to fully shoulder its responsibility in connection with the situation in the occupied territories. He noted that the resolution has authorized the UN secretary general to follow up the situation and to submit a report to the Council by the end of January, accompanied by recommendations for protecting the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Ghali concluded by expressing the hope that Israel will acquiesce to the desire of the international community that it immediately stop its aggressive acts against the Palestinian inhabitants and work to solve the Palestinian problem, respecting the Palestinians' right to self-determination in accordance with the UN resolutions.

Israeli Acts, U.S. Support Noted

JN231714 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 20 Dec 87 p 7

[Salamah Ahmad Salamah article: "The Gaza Massacres and U.S. Anxiety"]

[Excerpts] Unprecedented resistance in the Palestinian territories has been unleashed against the Israeli occupation forces. The world has awakened to realize that the Israeli dream of imposing its control on the Gaza Strip and the Arab cities on the West Bank has been dissolved in the blood of the children and young men of a completely new generation, a generation that will probably determine the fate of the Palestinian cause. This new generation was born under the Israeli occupation, coexisted with it, has been seared by it, and understands it better than those that preceded it. This is the generation on which we must pin our hopes; this is the generation that will undertake serious action to liberate the Palestinian land from within rather than from without. At the present stage, the Arab world is asked only to view with hope this new manifestation, which has astonished many and frustrated the hopes of those who had formulated their plans on the assumption that the operation of daunting the Palestinian people was in its final stages.

The inveterate politicians who still govern Israel with the mentality of the Nazi concentration camps are the first to have their dreams thwarted. They used to believe that the Palestinian cause could be settled through the subjugation and containment of the Palestinian people. These politicians range from those of the right-wing Likud Party to the opportunist left wing represented by the men of the Labor Party. Prime Minister Shamir and his colleagues in the Likud, particularly Sharon, still believe that harsh military rule in Gaza and the occupied Arab land is the best way to tackle the Palestinian cause and enhance the Israeli state. They reject any mention of a peaceful settlement. They even refuse to listen to those who speak of legitimate Palestinian rights because such talk resembles a death sentence on Israel. From this premise, the Israeli forces' killings and bloody massacres of school children and unarmed people in Nabulus, Balatah, and other cities simply for throwing stones and bricks at Israeli soldiers, who are provoking the people with their arrogance and arbitrary measures, do not move Shamir and his companions. These massacres take place in cold blood and usually without any fear of world reaction, not to mention Arab reaction.

The Israeli Likud's planning is clear and needs no explanation. The Israeli military presence in the occupied Arab territories seeks to establish settlements in areas where Palestinians are concentrated, to control the limited water sources and the economic activities of the Palestinians, to transform the Palestinian majority into a labor force working for Israeli employers or the Israeli Government itself, and to take the necessary repressive measures, including the deportation of any person suspected of hostile activities.

These methods have been mastered by the government of racial descrimination in South Africa. Israel has copied these methods meticulously and believes that they can, over a period of time, break the backbone of any Palestinian resistance in the occupied territories, assimilate the Palestinian people, and completely link them to the Israeli state. This will weaken the Palestinians, make them work for the occupier, and make them think only of how to survive.

For these reasons, it is not surprising that Shamir and his colleagues reject the idea of an international conference to settle the Palestinian issue. Shamir believes that an international conference should be devoted to discussions of establishing peace between Israel and its neighbors. As for the Palestinian cause, the Israeli leaders are confident that it will eventually disappear. [passage omitted]

If the eruption in the Gaza Strip and the cities of the West Bank has thwarted the Israeli rulers' dreams of calmly annexing the occupied territories, it also has

certainly thwarted the hopes of the U.S. Administration, which has resorted to the idea of an international conference only as a kind of political maneuver, not to mention the incessant repetition of placatory statements from U.S. officials, beginning with Reagan and ending with Murphy, as the Reagan administration continues to support Shamir's stands and moves to obstruct a peaceful settlement of the Palestinian issue through an international conference. The real intentions of the U.S. Administration have been revealed in two instances. The first was its submission to Zionist pressure in closing the PLO offices in Washington and New York, in spite of the explicitly illegal violation of the UN Charter, which grants the PLO the right to open an office there, since it is an observer member. Many missions and similar organizations enjoy such a right. The U.S. Administration has also violated the Human Rights Declaration and the U.S. Civil Rights Act, about which it has been boasting when speaking of the ill treatment of Soviet Jews.

The second instance was Washington's announcement in the midst of the bloody massacres in Gaza and the West Bank that it had concluded an agreement with Israel granting it rights and duties similar to those of NATO members, allowing Israel to purchase certain types of weapons and develop some types of missiles, while contenting itself with expressing anxiety over events in the occupied Arab territories. [passage omitted]

For these reasons, no one can expect a more moderate or balanced stand by the U.S. Administration or Congress in the near future. We should, indeed, expect the opposite because the U.S. presidential candidates who support Israel and adopt a biased stand toward it will have a better chance of winning. Congress' ratification of the illegal decision to close the PLO office in New York is fresh evidence of this. [passage omitted]

Opposition Hails 'Uprising'

NC231726 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1635 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 23 Dec (MENA)—The Egyptian opposition parties have declared their full solidarity with the Palestinian people's great uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. They said that this uprising proves the failure of all Israeli attempts to eliminate the Palestinian people and their liberation movement.

This was contained in a statement issued by the opposition parties following a meeting today at the Al-Wafd Party headquarters.

The statement stressed that Israel's iron-fist policy against women, children, and elderly people again reveals its aggressive and racist character, and belies its declarations about its desire for peace and its respect for peace agreements.

The Palestinian people's uprising was described by the statement as a clear message to all regional, Arab, and international forces that the Palestinian people's cause cannot be ignored. It added that the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to the establishment of a national independent state on their land under the leadership of the PLO, also cannot be ignored.

The opposition parties' statement put the onus on the two superpowers—the United States and the Soviet Union—to work to convene an international conference for peace in the Middle East under the auspices of the United Nations and with the participation of all the parties concerned, including the PLO, on an equal footing.

The statement said that it has been decided to hold requiem prayers in all of Egypt's mosques and churches on Friday. The statement also called for the observance of 2 minutes of silence throughout the Republic at 1230 on Monday.

AL-AKHBAR Views Situation

JN231834 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 20 Dec 87 p 1

[Sa'id Sunbul article: "Is It Enough To Be Disturbed?"]

[Text] What is taking place in the occupied territories these days is unprecedented in the past 20 years, the years of the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza. The occupied territories have risen in angry rejection of the Israeli occupation and its continuation. This anger has taken the form of demonstrations, protests, strikes, and the burning of tires. It expresses the Palestinians' rejection of occupation and the Israeli authorities' policy of oppression and settlement in the occupied territories. The Israeli forces have confronted this rejection with bullets, opening fire on unarmed civilians who used only their voices and fists.

Unarmed civilians have fallen, some dead and others wounded. The Israeli authorities thought that this violent confrontation of peaceful demonstrations and protests would scare the demonstrators and protesters, making them flee. But the opposite thing happened. The demonstrations did not stop. The protests continued and were not interrupted. Those who had remained silent chose not to do so any longer. They joined the angry crowd. It did not remain restricted to young people. Children, women, and the elderly joined the angry crowd, paying no attention to the bullets and bombs.

Since what is now taking place in the occupied territories is unprecedented in the past 20 years, the world media have devoted their attention to it. The news of the uprising in the occupied territories has been carried as banner headlines in newspapers, and it is being highlighted by radio and other information organs. Israel has tried to offer some justifications for what is taking place.

It said and continues to say that the PLO was disappointed by the recent Arab summit in Amman and ordered the Palestinians in the occupied territories to demonstrate and carry out sabotage operations! This explanation is unacceptable and completely unconvincing. There are many reasons for the Palestinian people to demonstrate, to protest, and to express their anger. Here are just a few:

1. The occupation has lasted longer than it should have. No people can live under occupation forever. No people can willingly accept foreign rule.

2. The recent Reagan-Gorbachev summit in Washington ignored the Palestinian cause and did not put forth any initiative for a settlement.

3. The linkage of the Palestinians' future to the U.S. presidential elections and the speculation that the issue will be frozen throughout 1988 disturbs and angers the Palestinians in the occupied territories, as it is inconceivable to link the fate of a people to elections in another country.

These reasons, among many others, will inevitably lead to an uprising and something more.

Violence fosters violence. When the Israeli forces confront unarmed civilians by opening fire on and killing them, the inevitable upshot is more demostrations and more violence. This is what has taken place and is continuing to take place.

When violence continues, it spreads to other areas. An organization that is holding some foreign hostages in Beirut has announced that it will resort to violent and harsh measures if violence in the occupied territories does not end. This was expected. While we completely reject and denounce terrorism, violence, and revenge on innocent civilians, we cannot deny that violence begets terrorism.

The White House spokesman recently stated that U.S. President Ronald Reagan is very much disturbed by the acts of violence and that he has called for self-restraint.

It is a great thing that the U.S. President is very much disturbed and calls for self-restraint. However, it is more important for the United States to realize the peril of the volatile situation in the Middle East and to act seriously to hold an international conference on which all elements except Shamir agree.

Editorial Criticizes U.S. Support

JN232154 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic
21 Dec 87 p 5

[Editorial: "Human Rights Should Be Applied to Everyone"]

[Text] The United States is a friend of the Arabs. This is, at least, what the U.S. leaders keep telling some of the Arab leaders. Despite this, the United States supports Israel whether it is right or wrong, and irrespective of how many crimes and acts of aggression it commits against the Arabs, particularly against the Palestinians. This casts dark shadows on the alleged friendship toward the Arabs, thus obscuring all the sentiments one expects from a friend. We do not deny or ignore the so-called special relations between Washington and Tel Aviv. But at the same time, we do not forget that the United States is a superpower and one of the two powers that possess the largest forces ever known in the history of this planet. In this capacity, the United States should abide by the provisions of international law and the UN Charter, which ban the occupation of land by force and regulate procedures for the treatment of the population of territories that temporarily fall under the yoke of occupation until they are returned to their owners. As a superpower, the United States should also deal fairly with everyone. It must not champion an oppressive aggressor against an unarmed people who only ask for the right to live and be free. Is the United States taking such a stance toward the current tribulation on the occupied Palestinian land at the hands of the Israeli forces?

U.S. presidents such as Abraham Lincolon and Woodrow Wilson are famous for their defense of freedom and human rights, which President Reagan has now transformed into a basic issue with respect only to the Soviet Union and the East European countries. But when it is a question of the Palestinian people's rights, the position becomes one of support for the state that tampers with these rights in the ugliest manner. This position even extends to the point of preventing any international condemnation of this state, even if such a condemnation is unanimously adopted by the international community.

There is no need to say how many times the U.S. veto has been used at the Security Council to prevent the passage of any resolution hurting the feelings of the Tel Aviv rulers. We do not want to say how many times the United States has threatened to use the veto whenever the Palestinian people are mentioned in a resolution, reference is made to the West Bank and Gaza as occupied areas, or the UN secretary general is asked to dispatch an envoy to investigate the current tragedy in both areas. This is a very intransigent position, which reveals unprecedented behavior in favor of Israel's interests. This position also encourages Israel to commit more crimes without any deterrence.

We have to tell the officials responsible for taking such positions that these positions will not help extinguish the fire that has been kindled by the current Palestinian uprising. In addition, they harm the image of the United States as a supporter of human rights and peace.

Rabin's Threats Viewed

NC240915 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0710 GMT
24 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 24 Dec (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR vehemently denounces the statements by Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, in which he has threatened to

resort to painful measures through Israel's iron fist in order to suppress the people's revolution, without caring about the loss of world sympathy.

In its editorial today, the paper says that Rabin made these impudent statements immediately upon his return from the United States after meeting with senior officials there. Thus, one does not need a lot of wit to construe the extent of support he got from Washington, which has given him the green light to do what he likes and to kill whomever he wishes, as long as the victims are the sons of a people about whom Washington does not care.

Concluding its editorial, AL-AKHBAR says that these provocative statements by Rabin soon after his return from Washington indicate that he has returned with full hands and completely assured that the U.S. Administration and Congress will not attempt, not even by words, to stop the despicable actions perpetrated by Israel against the Palestinian people.

Mubarak Receives 'Arafat Adviser Al-Hasan
NC241024 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1015 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 24 Dec (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Hani al-Hasan, the political adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, who arrived in Cairo last Sunday, and PNC member Sa'id Kamal at the Presidential Office this morning. The meeting was attended by Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and head of the President's Office for Political Affairs.

Mubarak Receives Israeli Knesset Member
NC241033 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1020 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 24 Dec (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Israeli Knesset member 'Abd al-Wahhab al-Darawishah at the Presidential Office this morning.

'Abd al-Majid Returns From Madrid 23 Dec
NC240736 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2325 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Cairo, 23 Dec (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, returned to Cairo tonight after a 5-day visit to Spain. [passage omitted]

Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that he carries a verbal message from King Juan Carlos to President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

He also said that Spain's attitude toward the Israeli practices in the West Bank and Gaza is clear. He pointed out that the Spanish foreign minister condemned these practices at a news conference which he held in Madrid this morning.

In his statement tonight, 'Abd al-Majid emphasized that President Mubarak's anticipated visit to Washington is important for persuading the U.S. Administration and Congress that it is necessary to act in order to give momentum to the peace process in the Middle East. He pointed out that preparations for this visit are under way.

'Abd al-Majid stressed that the Israeli practices in the occupied territory are obstructing peace efforts in the region. He expressed his hope that they will end soon. [passage omitted]

'Abd al-Majid on Territories, Gulf War, Syria
NC232049 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 23 Dec (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has reiterated Egypt's stand on the need to end the Israeli occupation of the occupied Arab territories. He stressed that this is a principle which Egypt will continue to advocate.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid described the Israeli authorities' actions against the Palestinian citizens in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip as painful and sad. He pointed out that Egypt had defined its stand on these actions at the time they took place.

'Abd al-Majid stated that he had sent a letter in this regard to Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. In the letter he stressed that an end to the Israeli occupation of these territories must occur as soon as possible. He added: We must speed up the peace steps because they are the only ideal answer to the deteriorating situation in the West Bank and Gaza. The Palestinian people must attain their full rights.

In an interview to be published by the Egyptian weekly AL-MUSAWWAR this Friday, Dr 'Abd al-Majid emphasized Egypt's adherence to an international conference on the basis that it represents the only means for solving the Middle East problem. He pointed out that President Husni Mubarak has reiterated this on more than one occasion.

'Abd al-Majid said that Egypt has not yet officially received any reports from the United States or the Soviet Union on what transpired at the Washington summit, particularly with regard to matters pertaining to the international conference and the failure thus far to impose a ban on the export of arms to Iran. He stressed: We must not establish our stands based on hypothetical impressions or unofficial information.

In his inteview with the AL-MUSAWWAR weekly, Dr 'Abd al-Majid emphasized, with regard to the Iraq-Iran war, the need to implement Security Council Resolution 598 on the Gulf war.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid pointed out that there are no indications that the implementation of Resolution 598 is likely. He said: To make any progress on this issue, more pressure and efforts must be exerted until we manage to make Iran face its responsibilities. The five permanent members of the Security Council must unite their stand to realize this. He asserted that all parties concerned must bring pressure to bear.

Responding to a question on how the tanker war should be contained now that the foreign military presence has failed to do so, 'Abd al-Majid stressed that respect for the principles of international law and the freedom of international navigation in the Gulf waters is strongly supported by Egypt. He said: The war of tankers is a result, not a cause of what is happening. It is the result of the Iraq-Iran war. He emphasized that the implementation of Resolution 598 is bound to end the tanker war and other aspects of violence in the area. This, he said, is what Egypt seeks.

In his interview with the AL-MUSAWWAR magazine, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister expressed the hope that the current detente between the Soviet and American giants will not be at the expense of the small states. He said: Detente between the two giants is necessary if small states are to act successfully in the international field.

'Abd al-Majid added that he cannot imagine the convening of an international conference while there is U.S.-Soviet disagreement on such a conference. This, he said, is a basic matter. He added: Therefore, Egypt, all Arab states, and all parties who have an interest in establishing peace and justice must seek the approval of the two superpowers, friendly states, and the Security Council's permanent member states.

On Egyptian-Syrian relations, 'Abd al-Majid said that President Mubarak has asserted on more than one occasion that there is no hostility between Egypt and Syria. He added that the meeting between President Husni Mubarak and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Kuwait was an occasion not only between two presidents, but also between two friends.

'Abd al-Majid further said that according to his information, there is nothing new with regard to Egyptian-Syrian relations except for the attempts by King Husayn of Jordan to mediate between the two countries. We are thankful for these attempts and hope they will succeed.

'Abd al-Majid said that Egypt wants the Red Sea to be a lake of peace for all its littoral states. Egypt also wants freedom of navigation in the Red Sea and stability in the surrounding region. According to 'Abd al-Majid, Egypt agrees with the YAR foreign minister's demand for close international cooperation to prevent superpower penetration of the region.

Answering a question on Egypt's return to the Arab League, 'Abd al-Majid said that Egypt's stand on the league is frank and clear. In the final analysis, the Arab League is an international and regional organization governed by its charter. He added that Article 2 of this charter stipulates that Cairo is the headquarters of the League. As for the suspension of Egypt's membership, this was a purely political decision because there is no article in the charter that refers to the suspension of any member state. Article 18 of the charter mentions dismissal, which can only be secured by a unanimous vote of the member states. This is something which has not happened. According to 'Abd al-Majid, over two-thirds of the Arab League member states have restored their diplomatic relations with Egypt.

In the interview, 'Abd al-Majid also discussed Egypt's stand on a number of regional issues, including Afghanistan. He called for the withdrawal of the Soviet forces from that Muslim country as soon as possible.

On Egypt's mediation between Sudan and Ethiopia, 'Abd al-Majid expressed the hope that President Mubarak's attempts to bring Sudan and Ethiopia closer will continue. He stressed that a stabilization of the situation in southern Sudan and an end to the war raging there are in the interest of Egypt, Sudan, and Ethiopia.

He said he has not heard anything about the possibility of a summit meeting between Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam and Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi in Egypt within the next few days.

In conclusion, 'Abd al-Majid expressed the hope that 1988 will have more positive aspects than negative ones.

Ghali Meets U.S., UK, Ugandan Ambassadors

NC231431 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1310 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 23 Dec (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, met with Frank Wisner, the U.S. ambassador in Cairo, today. They discussed the current developments in the occupied Arab territories and the repressive measures being taken by the Israeli occupation authorities against the Palestinian people.

During the meeting, Dr Ghali reaffirmed Egypt's denunciation of all the illegal Israeli practices in the occupied Arab territories, saying that these practices put further obstacles in the way of establishing peace in the region.

Dr Ghali also met today with Sir James Adams, the new British ambassador in Cairo. They discussed ways to bolster bilateral relations, the Middle East problem, and recent developments in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In addition, Dr Ghali received Talobako Molabia [name as received], the new Ugandan ambassador in Cairo, today. They reviewed bilateral relations and arrangements for Ghali's visit to Kampala, which is scheduled to take place next week.

FRG Economics Minister Continues Visit

Calls for More Cooperation

LD231721 Hamburg DPA in German 1449 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Cairo, 23 Dec (DVA/VWD)—Federal Economics Minister Martin Bangemann has spoken in favor of deepening economic cooperation between the Federal Republic and Egypt. Bangemann, who is currently on a 1-day visit to Egypt, held talks in Cairo today with Egyptian Tourism Minister Fu'ad 'Abd al-Latif Sultan and Minister for Economy and Foreign Trade Yusri 'Ali Mustafa. After his meetings, he said: "We must extend cooperation as far as possible so that Egypt can profit from German investment and German technology." [passage omitted]

Bangemann will also meet with Planning Minister Kamal Ahmad al-Janzuri and Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi. The talks planned for today with state President Husni Mubarak had to be canceled because of other engagements. Bangemann will fly to upper Egypt tomorrow with his family for a vacation.

Confers With Sidqi

NC241142 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1118 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 24 Dec (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi received FRG Economics Minister Martin Bangemann and his accompanying delegation, who are currently visiting Cairo, today.

Discussions at the meeting dealt with the means of boosting bilateral cooperation in various fields, particularly in the economic field and in trade exchange.

The meeting was attended by Dr Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade, and FRG Ambassador in Cairo Martin Elsaesser.

French President Arrives on 'Private' Visit

NC231829 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1815 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 23 Dec (MENA)—French President Francois Mitterrand arrived in Cairo from Djibouti this evening on a private visit scheduled to last several days during the Christmas and New Year holidays.

President Mitterrand was met at Cairo airport by Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi.

Libya

Embassy in Beirut Reportedly To Be Reopened

NC231412 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] According to an informed source, Libya has decided to reopen its embassy in Beirut. Libya closed its embassy, which was located in Al-Ramlah al-Bayda' [in West Beirut], about 4 years ago after it was subjected to direct armed attacks.

Jabir Receives USSR's Tretyak

LD232200 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, today received Army General Ivan Tretyak, deputy defense minister and commander in chief of the Air Defense Forces of the Soviet Union.

Al-Qadhdhafi, PNSF Discuss 'Armed Struggle'

LD232022 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1850 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, 23 Dec (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution has received members of the leadership of the Palestinian National Salvation Front [PNSF].

During the meeting, the revolution of the Arab people in the occupied soil and the means to support it and to step up the armed struggle were discussed as the only course to confront the Zionist enemy and to liberate the occupied Arab areas.

Sudan

Government Troops Recapture Khartoum Bilal

EA232035 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Our Armed Forces scored a new victory today against rebel forces by crushing the forces of the agent Garang in the area of Khartoum Bilal and liberating it completely. Our Air Force also destroyed enemy defenses at Qaysan and Kashangaro this morning. The rest of agent Garang's forces were besieged. Our forces are now searching the area in order to destroy them completely.

Al-Mirghani To Visit Al-Damazin Military Zone

JN231734 Khartoum SUNA in English 1715 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Khartoum, Dec. 23 (SUNA)—The President of the Council of State and the Supreme Commander of the Sudanese Armed Forces, Ahmad al-Mirghani will pay an

inspection visit to the military zone in Al-Damazin area, following the recovery of Kurmuk town which was previously seized by the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] rebel troops.

Al-Mirghani today met with the General Commander of the Armed Forces, Gen. Fawzi Ahmad al-Fadil, who briefed him on the recapture of Kurmuk conducted by the Army there.

Taj al-Din Denies Chad-Islamic Legion Clashes

JN231748 Khartoum SUNA in English 1720 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Khartoum, Dec. 23 (SUNA)—Member of the Council of State Dr 'Ali Hasan Taj al-Din denied the story broadcast by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) that Chad has attacked the Islamic Legion forces which were allegedly said to have moved from inside the Sudanese territory.

Dr Taj al-Din denied in a press statement here Wednesday that no presence of any Islamic Legions forces inside the Sudanese territory pointing that armed robbers may have penetrated Sudanese joint borders with Chad. [sentence as received]

Dr Taj al-Din said he had affirmed to President Hissein Habre while attending the late Francophone summit in France, that the Sudanese Armed Forces were ordered to hit any armed persons in the area and that if Chad has any information about the presence of any armed elements, it should inform the Sudan to attack them.

Also, Dr Taj al-Din said that President Habre did not attack the Sudan but he said his forces had clashed with five armed men.

Egyptian Mediation With Ethiopia 'Positive'

EA231111 Khartoum SUNA in English 0935 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Khartoum, 23rd Dec (SUNA)—Sudan's Ambassador to Egypt, Al-Amin 'Abd al-Latif described the mediation between Sudan and Ethiopia, which is conducted by Egyptian Premier Atif Sidqi as positive, the daily "AL-AYYAM" reported here today.

Sidqi mediated, on the first of current month, between Sudan and Ethiopia following the former accusation to the latter of assisting the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) of Col. John Garang, which is battling the government in the south. The accusation came immediately after the capturing of the border town of Kurmuk by the SPLM.

The Sudanese ambassador, who is explaining the dimension of the southern Sudan problem to the Egyptian pressmen, was quoted by the daily as expressing hope for the success of the Egyptian mediation, adding the failure of the mediation will affect Sudan and Ethiopia.

On the other hand, the ambassador denied the news report saying foreign troops exist in Sudanese border with Chad.

Inter-Gulf Affairs

Saudi Minister Closes GCC Preparatory Talks

LD231400 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Excerpt] This afternoon, their highnesses and excellencies the foreign ministers of the GCC member states concluded their preparatory meeting for the GCC Supreme Council. His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister and chairman of the meeting, delivered the following speech:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Your Highnesses and Excellencies, [word indistinct], Brothers: I am pleased, as we have presided over the closing of our proceedings, to express my satisfaction with the steps we have attained and with what we have accomplished in preparation for the upcoming historical meeting. This will begin in a few days among the leaders of our states at the eighth session of the GCC Supreme Council.

Thanks to God, all the elements of [word indistinct] and effectiveness were available for these blessed meetings. By displaying responsibility and seriousness, you have reached important political and economic recommendations, as well as others in different fields, which will be submitted to our leaders—God willing—thanks to the awareness and sense of responsibility that have dominated these meetings. [passage omitted]

Ministers Depart

LD232007 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] The GCC foreign ministers left Riyadh this afternoon after participating in the GCC Ministerial Council that prepared for the GCC summit, scheduled for next Saturday.

The following departed from King Khalid International Airport: Yusuf ibn al-'Alawi 'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs; Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf al-Thani, Qatari minister of state for foreign affairs; Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, Bahraini minister of foreign affairs; Rashid 'Abdallah al-Nu'aymi, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs; and Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

They were seen off by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, minister of foreign affairs; 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah, GCC secretary general; Ambassador Tawfiq Alamdar, chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry; and the GCC ambassadors to the Kingdom.

Iranian Gunboats Attack Norwegian Supertanker

JN240639 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0615 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] Dubayy, 24 Dec (INA)—A giant oil tanker in international waters of the Arabian Gulf was the target of an Iranian missile attack prior to midnight last night. The tanker was carrying more than 285,000 tons of Saudi oil.

Shipping sources today told INA's correspondent in Abu Dhabi that the Norwegian tanker, the "Berge Big," was headed toward the Strait of Hormuz when Iranian gunboats attacked it with missiles off the UAE Amirate of Dubai.

The shipping sources added that a fire broke out aboard the tanker following the Iranian attack.

INA's correspondent has reported that the supertanker "Berge Big" has entered Dubayy port to determine the damage caused by seven missiles fired by Iranian gunboats. Preliminary reports say two of the supertanker's reservoirs took direct hits in the attack.

The supertanker was on its way from the Saudi port of Ra's Tannurah, which is located on the Arabian Gulf. The vessel was fully loaded with 285,400 tonnes of oil when Iranian gunboats attacked it northeast of the Amirate of Dubai, prior to midnight last night. The Iranian regime uses the occupied Arab island of Abu Musa, situated in the middle of the Arabian Gulf, as a base for its gunboats. These Iranian vessels attack tankers and merchant ships in the Arabian Gulf.

Last Tuesday evening, Iranian gunboats struck the Liberian supertanker "Stena Concordia" 16 km out from Jabal 'Ali port, located in the Amirate of Dubai, while on its way to Bahrain. The supertanker sustained slight damage. One missile hit the engine room, but the oil tanker managed to continue under its own power.

Kuwait

Foreign Minister Returns From GCC Talks

LD231714 Kuwait KUNA in English 1435 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 23 (KUNA)—Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad returned here Wednesday after attending a meeting from GCC foreign ministers in Riyadh since Monday.

Shaykh Sabah told KUNA at the airport that he and his GCC counterparts reached a number of recommendations related to political, security and military developments in the region.

There were also recommendations on economic cooperation between GCC members on the one hand and between the Council and other economic blocs on the other, he said.

The recommendations which Shaykh Sabah said were reached in a constructive atmosphere will be referred to the GCC eighth summit planned to open in Riyadh Saturday.

The summit, Shaykh Sabah said, coincides with "an extremely delicate and dangerous phase which calls for serious and continuous work so that we pass through and achieve the aspirations of our people."

The Kuwaiti deputy premier and foreign minister said the forthcoming summit would be a springboard for the Council to move to "wider horizons" of inter-Gulf cooperation.

PDRY

'Abd al-Samad, Delegation Depart for Libya

EA231905 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] A YSP delegation led by Brother 'Umar 'Abd al-Samad, member of the Central Committee and chairman of the national leadership of the organization of People's Defense Committees, departed Aden this morning for the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. During their stay, they will participate in the work of the national conference of ruling parties in the Arab homeland.

Shortly before his departure, Mr 'Abd al-Samad told ANA that our party delegation's participation in this conference comes in response to an invitation from the Secretariat of the Arab People's Conference and the leader of the 1 September Revolution, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. 'Abd al-Samad said: The conference, which will be held from 26 to 29 December, will consider a number of current Arab issues. Efforts to unify the Arab energy sector and to provide capabilities for joint Arab action, the case of the Palestinian Arab people, and the Gulf war are at the top of the agenda.

He was seen off at the airport by Brother 'Abd al-Razzaq Sha'if, member and deputy secretary of the Central Committee.

United Arab Emirates

Iran's Besharati Received by Defense Minister

JN231107 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Muhammad ibn Rashid al-Maktum, minister of defense, this morning received in his office in Dubayy 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, Iranian deputy foreign minister, and his accompanying delegation. Besharati arrived in the country earlier this morning.

During the meeting, the two officials reviewed bilateral relations and discussed the current situation in the Gulf region, in light of developments in the Iraq-Iran war. WAM has learned that His Highness Shaykh Muhammad ibn Rashid al-Maktum emphasized to the Iranian official the need to end the Iraq-Iran war, as well as to resort to peaceful negotiations for resolving the bloody conflict between the two Muslim neighbors. He then pointed to the importance of implementing Security Council Resolution 598. This measure calls for ending the Iraq-Iran war and resolving differences between the two countries by peaceful means.

His highness emphasized the firm UAE stand on this conflict. This war is exhausting the resources of both countries, continues to cause destruction, and only serves the interests of the enemies of the Arab and Islamic nation. His Excellency Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sa'id al-Maktum, director of the Civil Aviation Department in Dubayy; His Excellency Mostafa Haeri-Fumani, Iranian ambassador to the UAE; and the delegation accompanying the Iranian official also attended the meeting.

Meets With President

LD240915 Tehran IRNA in English 0839 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 24, IRNA—Head of the United Arab Emirates, Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan praised Iran's stand towards the presence of foreign forces in the region saying his country had opposed the move before arrival of foreign vessels in the Persian Gulf.

Speaking in a meeting with Iran's Acting Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati Wednesday in Abu Dhabi, Shaykh Zayid added that foreign powers are definitely seeking their own interests in the region and that they do not feel any sympathy for the regional countries.

During the meeting, Besharati conveyed verbal message of President 'Ali Khamene'i to his UAE counterpart on the presence of foreign forces in the region.

He said security in the Persian Gulf region should be maintained by regional countries alone.

He also said Iran's stand towards southern Persian Gulf states has not changed adding that Iran has always been interested in improvement of relations with these countries. However, he stressed, some of these countries have sided with Iran's enemy, Iraq. Naturally, he stated, there should be some difference between them and Iran's friends.

The UAE head expressed his satisfaction with the trend of mutual relations and called for their expansion and improvement.

President Receives Message From 'Arafat

JN231930 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1815 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], member of the PLO Executive Committee, met with His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE, Abu Dhabi, this afternoon. During the meeting, Abu Mazin conveyed a verbal message to Shaykh Zayid from brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] regarding the explosive situation in the occupied homeland. This is in light of the continuing popular uprising, the repressive practices of the Zionist enemy, and the latest developments in the Palestine question.

Yemen Arab Republic

Al-'Iryani on PDRY Ties, Border Clashes

PM231201 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 19 Dec 87 pp 22-23

[Interview with Foreign Minister Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani by Sami al-Haj in Sanaa; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Haj] What is the likelihood of the oil situation influencing Yemeni foreign policy?

[Al-'Iryani] Why do people expect oil to produce a new foreign policy? If the reference is to Yemen's relations with the oil-buying states, then I say these countries will not be one state, but several regions. We want Yemeni oil to reach all the main international consumer regions. The issue of buying and selling cannot create a new foreign policy.

Yemeni foreign policy stems from basic principles. For example, our stand cannot suddenly change into a policy of noncommitment to joint Arab defense, no interest in the Palestinian cause, no concern about what is happening in Lebanon, or no interest in Arab solidarity. Even if we did suppose, theoretically, that Yemen did not need anyone, this would not be reasonable or logical. [passage omitted]

[Al-Haj] You have restored relations with Egypt and we have noticed that an Egyptian military delegation is currently in your country. Have there been any new developments in relations?

[Al-'Iryani] First of all, Egyptian-Yemeni military cooperation in the field of training continued, as I told you, even before relations were restored. Second, there is no justification at all—because there is no tension in the region surrounding us—for any type of military coordination, whether to protect the Red Sea or out of any fear of foreign aggression. The region is tranquil. However, it cannot be denied that if any tension were to arise in this region, or in the event of any kind of external aggression, Egypt should be considered an inseparable part of the Red Sea region. One cannot ignore its role in this regard.

[Al-Haj] The fact of Yemeni-Libyan coordination is well known. It was noticed that the entire Yemeni Government visited Tripoli, and...

[Al-'Iryani] Yes, this was in return for a visit that the Libyan Government made in March 1985. We took a long time to make a visit in return. After all, it is a duty. We cannot ignore an important event such as the government of an Arab country coming to visit us, although this happened about 2 and 1/2 years ago. It was thus our duty to return the visit and the greetings.

[Al-Haj] On what level would you put Yemeni-Libyan relations?

[Al-'Iryani] My assessment of Yemeni-Libyan ties is that they were not devoid of tension in the early eighties. This was due to a misunderstanding on the Libyan side, not on the Yemeni side. Once matters were clarified and Yemeni positions were made free of ambiguity, I can say that Yemeni-Libyan relations, like those between any Arab countries, have been governed by amity, harmony, and understanding. Nothing is dictated or arbitrary when it comes to weighing positions. Frankly, we know Libya has had and still has certain views on the restoration of ties with Egypt. However, the independent Yemeni stand, which is due to a complete interest in Arab solidarity and the Arab nation, has met with understanding from the Libyan brothers in Libya. This does not mean that they support the idea, but they have not made it an issue in our talks with them.

[Al-Haj] However, press reports speak of Yemeni mediation between Libya and Egypt.

[Al-'Iryani] That has taken place and been broadcast and published. An exchange of plans has taken place and efforts are still continuing.

[Al-Haj] Do you expect these efforts to succeed?

[Al-'Iryani] No one mediates between two sides without hoping for a positive outcome.

[Al-Haj] Within the framework of mediation and initiatives, does Yemen intend to put forward a new proposal on the Gulf war?

[Al-'Iryani] Actually, Libya's attitude on the Gulf war is now more logical. A recent statement by a Libyan official blamed Iran since Tehran insists on continuing the war until the aggressor is identified. What was being said about military cooperation between Libya and Iran is no longer being talked about at the moment. Our belief is that Libyan military cooperation [with Iran] no longer exists and that Libya now realizes that this conflict is dangerous and that Iran is responsible for its continuation. What other roles? If Yemen did play a role in the past, we cannot claim that it was a decisive one, but Yemen did try to influence Libya's stand in the past. However, now there is no justification for any such role.

Libya now has ties with Iraq and, between them, the two are more capable of achieving understanding due to the fact that they now have direct relations.

[Al-Haj] Do you have information that Syrian policy on the Gulf war will change?

[Al-'Iryani] We have no information on this.

[Al-Haj] Some time ago, reports were published in the UK about border clashes between your country and your neighbors. How true were these reports?

[Al-'Iryani] As for the clashes, at the beginning of this year, there was friction between nomadic Bedouin groups in the northern region. A Yemeni and a Saudi patrol then intervened, but this was not tension between two states. It was instead simply neighborhood tension in empty desert areas, which is natural.

As for the two parts [of Yemen], there was no clash in the real sense of the word. We do not deny that the South Yemeni chief of staff was in Sanaa to discuss the matter. This matter is that there were events in areas that are considered to be sensitive. We had submitted a complaint and taken some precautions. When the chief of staff visited, we said: Brothers, we are not used to this kind of thing. You have adopted new stands and you should give us an explanation. They said: So have you. We replied: Yes, but you started it.

The matter has now been resolved, following the visit of the chief of staff. The observation points in the new unfamiliar places have now been removed.

[Al-Haj] Does this mean relations are good despite the fact you have embraced [former PDRY President] 'Ali Nasir?

[Al-'Iryani] Yemeni-Yemeni relations are based on the principle that unity is the fate and the destiny. If abnormal and unpleasant incidents occur, this does not mean they prevent unity. However, we do not deny that what happened in the southern part last January has delayed a basic unity step, namely, ratification of the unity constitution. However, we are still discussing the constitution with them. We also have a legal commitment that once the document is completed, it will be submitted to the assemblies of both peoples and then to a public referendum. This was expected to be held before the January incidents. However, any change in the timing due to unforeseen events does not mean that we cannot take a unity step when there is an opportunity to do so. [passage omitted]

President Speaks on Army, 'Next Battle'

JN232119 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Speech by President Saddam Husayn during a visit to the Al-Kindi Preparatory School for boys in Baghdad; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] Before the beginning of the war, we tried all means and sent hundreds of memorandums by the Foreign Ministry to Iran and international forums saying that Iran was carrying out attacks and that it must correct its stands and end its aggressiveness toward Iraq. This included their attacks on border posts, violations of our airspace and territorial waters, interference in our internal affairs, and attacks on our political or [word indistinct] leaders planned by their embassy when it was here. [passage omitted]

We know that in today's world people are not driven to war like sheep. If they are forced to go, they will not fight well. Therefore, the Iranians' enthusiasm for combat decreases when they discover that their leadership is aggressive, untruthful, and despotic and that it has no single legitimate objective for fighting. This is what is happening in Iran now. The Iranians fought in the past with a great percentage of volunteers. Now, most of those massed are forced to come. When most of them were volunteers, we crushed them because we are based on our known principles. It is even more natural for us to crush them, regardless of their number, when most of them are forced to the fronts.

On the other hand, we have become stronger in combat with the development of two ideas, both on the same level. The first is that Iran is wrong and the second is that Iraq is right. However, brothers, our equipment and weapons for all Army corps have improved qualitatively and quantitatively. The number of fighters has increased considerably since the Great Day and Great Harvest Battles of last year. The Presidential Guard has become larger. The Army has grown as well. The training level of the Army and Presidential Guard is higher than it was during the Great Harvest Battle. You know that last year's battles lasted for more than 3 months from a practical point of view. However, the only outcome was that the ones they brought forward were killed or wounded.

On the other hand, the Iraqi Army continued to grow in terms of personnel, quality, and equipment. They are retreating in all these fields. Nevertheless, until now they have not managed to assemble the same number of troops they did during the Great Harvest. Their morale is [word indistinct]. Regardless of their attempts, they will be crushed. You, your families, the Iraqis, and the Arabs in the entire Arab homeland will continue to be proud, God willing. However, all this does not mean that we must not increase our awareness, vigilance, and work and improve our capabilities. Yes, we must do all this. We must increase our awareness. We must increase our patience. We must increase to the maximum our men's determination on the fronts.

It must be clear to us that the next battle will, God willing, be to reap the results for which we Iraqis have fought for 8 years. We are now fighting in the 8th year. He who is awaiting the outcome of 8 years of combat will surely fight with more zeal, resolve, and awareness. [passage omitted]

Ramadan Receives Sudanese Interior Minister

JN231722 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, today received Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn, Sudanese deputy prime minister and interior minister. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations and ways to enhance them. The first deputy prime minister reviewed the developments of the Iranian aggression and the Iraqi forces' high preparedness to crush any new adventure by the Iranian rulers.

Sudanese Interior Minister Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn praised Iraq's positive stands on peaceful international initiatives and its heroic confrontation of the Iranian aggression, which is aimed against Iraq and the Arab nation. The meeting was attended by Interior Minister Samir Muhammad 'Abd al-Wahhab and the Sudanese Ambassador in Baghdad.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Operations

'New Losses' Inflicted

JN231500 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1403 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Dec (INA)—Through their activities today on the battlefronts, the Iraqi Armed Forces inflicted new losses on the Iranian forces in personnel, equipment, and weapons. In a statemen to INA, an Iraqi military spokesman said the Iraqi forces had killed 6 Iranian personnel, destroyed 11 infantry positions, 2 posts, 3 heavy machineguns, and 1 Katuysha launcher, set ablaze and destroyed 5 vehicles and damaged another, destroyed 1 shovel, and blew up 1 ammunition dump.

Communique No 2,961

JN231753 Baghghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Communique No 2,961 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 23 December]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With constant firmness and faithfulness, our victorious Armed Forces continue to carry out their combat activities, inflicting further losses on the enemies of our country. The following is a roundup of these activities for last night and today:

1. Our forces in the I Army Corps northern sector opened fire on enemy units opposite them. They managed to achieve the following: five infantry positions and one post destroyed and their occupants killed; four vehicles set ablaze and destroyed and another damaged; and one shovel destroyed and one ammunition dump blown up.

2. Two enemy personnel were killed in the II Army Corps central sector.

3. One infantry position was destroyed and its occupants killed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

4. Our units in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan inflicted the following losses on the aggressors: two of the scoundrels killed; two heavy machineguns destroyed; one vehicle set ablaze and destroyed; one heavy machinegun destroyed; and one ammunition dump blown up.

5. In the VII Army Corps sector, two enemy soldiers were killed and four infantry positions, one post, and one heavy machinegun were destroyed.

[Signed] The Army Forces General Command, 23 December 1987

Paper Cited on Larak Raid

JN231839 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] The British paper LLOYDS LIST said today that the long-range Iraqi air raid on Iran's Larak Island has set ablaze 1.4 million tonnes of oil at the floating oil reservoirs at the remote island in the Arabian Gulf. The paper, which is issued by the Lloyds maritime insurance firm, said that the Iraqi fighter planes flew from the northern coast of the Arabian Gulf to the south and bombarded the floating, moving oil pumping station at Larak Island.

The paper said the last raid launched by the Iraqi fighter planes was on 5 October 1987. This raid resulted in turning the oil supertanker "Shining Star," whose empty weight was 256,236 tonnes, into scrap iron.

LLOYDS LIST revealed that Iran uses Larak Island to store 20 million barrels of Iranian oil and its byproducts.

Iran uses nine supertankers to store crude oil and six others to store oil products. The paper said the frequent Iraqi raids have decreased the volume of Iranian oil exports and that the damage inflicted by Iraqi fighter planes on Iranian oil installations has forced Iran to import 100,000 barrels of oil products daily to meet domestic needs.

Foreign Ministry 'Strongly Rejects' UN 'Rebuke'

TA240709 Jerusalem Government Press Office in English 23 Dec 87

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has made the following statement in reaction to the adoption of a resolution deploring Israel in the U.N. Security Council:

"Israel regrets the adoption of this resolution by the Security Council and strongly rejects the rebuke of its policies in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza and the placing of responsibility on it in connection with the events taking place there.

This one-sided resolution makes no mention whatsoever of those hostile elements attempting to force their will upon the civilian population through the means of violence and terrorism. These elements are the central cause behind the creation of this regrettable situation in the territories.

The responsibility for the maintenence of public order and calm has been placed, in accordance with international law, upon Israel alone. Israel will continue to fulfill its obligations toward all the inhabitants, Jews and Arabs, to secure their well-being and safety.

Israel reiterates that it continues to apply all the humanitarian provisions of the Geneva Convention, while leaving aside the question of the de jure applicability of this convention to the territories within its administration."

Arad Claims 'No Crisis' in Relations With U.S.

TA240624 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Moshe Arad, Israel's ambassador to Washington, says there is no crisis in Israeli-U.S. relations. Ambassador Arad noted that Israel was not pleased with the statements made in Washington, but that bilateral relations can tolerate such situations. Mr Arad said this in an interview to the Voice of Israel. He explained that the U.S. Administration must take the Egyptian position into consideration in its reaction to the events in the territories, but that the U.S. reaction mainly stems from the cumulative effect of the U.S. media reports. The ambassador added that these reports hurt Israel's image, and that the long-term effect will not be positive. [passage omitted]

Peres Message to Egypt Says Peace Must Continue

TA231800 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 23 Dec 87 p A2

[Report by Rafa'el Mann]

[Text] "We are doing our best to calm tempers and prevent casualties, whether they are Arabs or Jews," Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres wrote in a message to Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid. He was responding to the grave Egyptian protests over the IDF's activities in the territories.

Peres added: "The peace process must continue despite all the pain and sorrow, and despite the violence, in order not to harm peace. Even in difficult situations, the main points should become the focus of our attention, which we must not and shall not forget."

In explaining the activities of the security forces, he added: "It is our duty to bring back security and honor to each resident who lives under Israeli rule, whatever his religion or nationality."

The Israeli foreign minister noted that he supports the view of his Egyptian counterpart that the latest acts of violence do not serve peace, and added that these acts "are partly nurtured by forces that aspire to harm the only peace in our region—peace between Israel and Egypt."

Peres wrote that he is certain most of the Arabs and Jews do not believe that serious problems can be solved through violence. The message was presented to Egypt's Ambassador in Tel Aviv, Muhammad Basyuni, and conveyed by Israel's-Ambassador in Cairo, Moshe Sasson simultaneously. Peres apologized for the delay in replying to 'Abd Al-Majid's message, which was communicated to Israel 10 days ago.

Quiet Prevails in Gaza, West Bank 23 Dec

TA231929 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] No disturbances have been registered today either in the Gaza Strip or the West Bank. Except for a few stone throwers who fled upon the arrival of the security forces, there were no real attempts at staging riots.

Last night and today the security forces carried out extensive arrests among instigators and rioters. Some of the detainees were transported to a new detention camp in the south of Mount Hebron. Military sources estimate that the arrests as well as deportation threats have achieved their purpose. The process of restoring peace may take several days yet. The test will come next Sunday when schools in the West Bank and Gaza Strip reopen.

Most laborers in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip left for work in Israel this morning. Business resumed in almost every town, except Janin and Tulkarm. Security forces patrolled these towns, assisting shopkeepers to resume business.

The curfew in Jabalyah remained in force today, to prevent continued flare-ups and the renewal of riots.

Rabin Addresses Knesset on Territories
TA231159 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1015 GMT 23 Dec 87

["Government statement" on the situation in the territories delivered to the Knesset by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on 23 December—live]

[Text] Mrs Speaker, distinguished Knesset. For 2 weeks we have been faced with a continuous series of exceptionally wide, intense, and serious disturbances in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. At the end of last week, the serious events spread to the center of Jerusalem and, 2 days ago, Israel's Arab inhabitants joined the violent disturbances. I hope this was an exceptional and one-time occurrence.

Distinguished Knesset. We have experienced various types of riots and terrorist attacks in the past. There is no ignoring, however, the exceptional gravity of the events of the past 2 weeks, both in terms of the large number of Arab inhabitants who took part in them and their extent, as well as the persistence and duration of the events, which have not yet ended. The heavy tension and the alert in the field are not yet over, and this atmosphere enables a few extremists to agitate and drag the masses into additional riots.

This is neither the time nor the place to make an analysis or an assessment of the general circumstances and concrete reasons for the eruption of the series of violent incidents and extraordinary incidents such as we have not experienced in many years. We must soberly look at the situation, recognize the fact that it exists, and find appropriate ways to put an end to it now and prevent it in the future, with the aim off providing all the residents with safety and room to breathe.

Mrs Speaker, members of the house. All Israeli governments, without exception, have stipulated that the legal and political status of the territories of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District would not be determined through a unilateral Israeli decision, in order to prove our wish for peace on our eastern border as well—a peace which would be attained through direct, bilateral negotiations with Jordan and the Palestinian residents of the territories who are not identified as members of the PLO. We will not conduct negotiations with the PLO terrorist organization.

Since the end of the 6-Day War, the territories have been under military rule by the Military Government and the Civilian Administration. The government's policy is a twofold combination of a deadly war against PLO terrorism on the one hand, and the maintenance of law and public order for all residents, together with extending aid to improve the quality of life of those who want to live in peace, on the other.

The violent disturbances in the last 2 weeks erupted against the background of local incidents and are the result of spontaneous organization. The PLO terrorist organizations and their activists in the territories hitched a ride on this wave of incidents and did everything they could, both outside and within the territories, to further stir and exacerbate them. The Arab media, particularly in the radical Arab countries, were full of calls to the residents of the territories to violate law and order through extreme violence. The Arab press in East Jerusalem was full of instigations, both direct and indirect, to continue the demonstrations.

The status of the Palestinian terrorist organizations was dealt a severe blow in the Arab world and the international community as a result of the resolutions of the Arab summit in Amman. These resolutions made it clear to the Arab world and the world at large that the order of priorities of most of the Arab world is to prevent the spread of Khomeyni's radical Islam and to end the Iran-Iraq war, and gave a lower priority to finding a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. [heckling by various Knesset members]

An additional blow was the failure of the attempt of the PLO terrorist organizations to increase terrorist activities against Israel on the eve of and during the Amman summit. For the terrorist organizations and their leaders, the incidents which have taken place over the past 2 weeks were tantamount to a life preserver in terms of their inter-Arab and international status. Therefore, the PLO is going out of its way in its efforts to agitate and organize additional violent riots.

In the face of this, Israel is determined to prevent violent riots and increase its activities against PLO terrorist elements wherever they are. This mission has been entrusted to the IDF, the Border Police, and other security branches. The general objective of these forces is to make it clear to the inhabitants of the territories, the Arab countries, and the international community, both with words and deeds, that through war, threats of war, terror, and violent disturbances they will gain nothing. On the contrary, a continuation of the violent disturbances and terror will bring suffering, pain, and difficulties to those who initiate and take part in them. Gaza and Hebron, Ramallah and Nabulus are not and will not be like Beirut, Sidon, and Tyre. Here we will fight together and with all our might—which is vast—against anybody trying to undermine our full control over the territories of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District through violent means. [heckling by various Knesset members]

Peace on our eastern border—and we all want this—will only be reached at the political negotiating table with Jordan and the residents of the territories.

Mrs Speaker, distinguished Knesset. In a bid to calm the situation in the territories and restore a sense of security to all the people living there, the security forces have been operating with all the means at our disposal within

and in accordance with the law. Consequently, the security forces will use all means and methods against agitators, organizers, and participants in violent riots.

I would like to inform you of some of the standing orders of the IDF and other security branches operating in the territories: a) the concentration of large forces at any time the IDF command sees fit; b) the expedient use of relatively large forces in the face of any violent disturbance at the earliest possible stage with the aim of nipping it in the bud; c) issuing warnings to rioters when dispersing a violent disturbance, with the aim of allowing them to disperse willingly. If the warning is not heeded, to initially use such means as tear gas and rubber bullets used by IDF soldiers. If these also fail to disperse a violent disturbance and the lives of IDF soldiers and Border Policemen fulfilling their duties are endangered, they can shoot with the intention of hitting the leaders of the riot and those throwing the Molotov cocktails, aiming at their feet to the extent possible, only after shots in the air have also failed to disperse the disturbance. In my capacity as defense minister, I am personally responsible for the lives and well-being of the IDF soldiers and Border Policemen operating with them, and it is my duty to give them the capability to defend themselves in the course of fulfilling the missions entrusted to them, also by using their weapons with the intention of hitting those trying to threaten their lives and well-being. d) The military commanders who are responsible for the Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza areas are not limited in their use of expulsions and administrative detentions against the agitators and organizers of the violent disturbances and terror—this, within the confines of the legal proceedings stipulated by law. Nor are the commanders of the Southern and Central Commands restricted in imposing curfews for a definite period of time in order to prevent a violent disturbance. [heckling by various Knesset members]

Let me repeat my last sentence: Nor are the commanders of the Southern and Central Commands restricted in imposing curfews for a definite period of time in order to prevent a violent disturbance or to execute any necessary activity in order to enforce the law and uphold public order. In accordance with current procedures, greater freedom will be given to close down institutions which serve as hotbeds of incitement to terror and violations of public order, such as schools and other institutions.

At the same time, we will give our full support to those residents of the territories who want to continue with their normal lives in the territories and those who want to leave for work in Israel.

I know that the description of what has been happening in the territories, as reflected in the foreign media, does not help improve Israel's image in many countries in the world. At the same time, I am sure that beyond the temporary problem of our image, the supreme duty of the government, the defense establishment, and the IDF troops is to fight violence in the territories and prevent it with the help of all the means at our disposal within the law. We will do this, and I am confident that we will also succeed.

Knesset members, I have something to say to Israel's Arabs. For an entire generation, you honorably stood the test of loyalty to the State of Israel, and except for isolated and exceptional cases, you have been faultless. You were and are part of us. I allow myself to suggest that you not get dragged into incitement and not be tempted by calls to attack and demonstrate, and remain as you have been so far—loyal people who enjoy a quiet life. In the remote past you experienced a tragedy, and both you and we had better not return to it, nor repeat it.

At this time, too, [heckling from the floor] I see it as both a necessity and a duty to appeal to the Palestinian residents in the Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza areas not to be tempted by the incitement of the PLO terrorist organization leaders. From the days of Mufti Hajj Amin al-Husayni, to the days of 'Arafat, your leaders have led you from one disaster to another. Any time you complied with them you were met by failure, and it is you, more than others, who were their victims: 21 Arab residents have been killed and 158 have been wounded in incidents so far. Your way of life has been disrupted. Also, 31 IDF soldiers and Border Policemen have been wounded, as well as 19 Israeli civilians. You will gain nothing through violence and terror. You have no chance of fighting the IDF and the other security forces in this way. The only way to solve the Israeli-Arab conflict, and solve the Palestinian problem within this framework, is that of peace negotiations.

Knesset members, from this podium I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude to the IDF soldiers and commanders, the Israel Police, the Border Police, and the other security branches that are operating on behalf of the government to prevent violence wherever it may be and to maintain law, security, and order for all residents who live in the territories, in Jerusalem, and in Israel. I am calling for a joint and united stand behind the IDF and the security forces in this task of theirs. Let us support them in this activity and wish them success, which will also mean success for all of us.

Peres Comments on U.S. Reaction, Arab Strike

TA231818 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Special interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami on 23 December; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Ben-'Ami] Mr Peres, what is your reaction to the very harsh reactions issued by the White House, the State Department, and the UN Security Council?

[Peres] My reaction is that I am sorry. I think we have been put in a very difficult and intolerable situation. You know my position: I am in favor of a peace process, but I think violence and peace, just as fire and water, do not mix. They contradict each other. Nobody will enter a peace process because of pressure and fear or under the influence of bullets and so on. I do not think the IDF started these events. What does it mean that both sides are to blame? One side started, and the other side reacted.

[Ben-'Ami] Nevertheless, the world has been seeing very violent disturbances in the media. Some have compared the clashes here to what has been happening in South Korea. Based on what you heard in the Inner Cabinet session this morning, do you think that the IDF troops are really operating as called for under the circumstances?

[Peres] Usually, yes. I think this situation was as unexpected as a waterfall. I do not think it was organized by anybody, or that somebody predicted it and drew up some scenario. I believe most of the difficulties arose due to the uncontrolled and unexpected nature of the incidents. It took time before people identified exactly what was happening and how to react. When two soldiers walk in the street and are assailed by a mob with stones and bottles, there is no easy solution. This is not Korea.

Therefore, the main problem in this kind of situation is to regain control over events. We must anticipate difficulties rather than just react to them.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Peres, following your meetings with the leaders of local Arab councils do you think that Israeli-Arab relations in the State of Israel remain the same as before last Monday?

[Peres] I did not feel that the Arab representatives were happy about the developments; nobody is happy about them. In my opinion, what should be done now is to gather all responsible and serious people everywhere in order to put an end to the bloody events and words. You know, sometimes bloody words sound as bad as the events themselves. Several utterances have been shocking in their severity.

[Ben-'Ami] Do you believe we are at the end of this wave of unrest?

[Peres] In order to get out of this wave of unrest we should make up our minds about what we want. Our choices are the pain involved in a peaceful solution or the pain involved in a perpetration of the present situation. We must make a choice. All ways are painful and all of them have a price. Even those who say they are not prepared to pay the price of peace forget that they have to pay a price for the absence of peace.

[Ben-'Ami] Thank you very much, sir.

Shamir Interviewed on Unrest in Territories

TA232057 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1940 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Yoram Ronen and political correspondent Yig'al Goren on the weekly "Moqed" program—live in the studio]

[Text] [Ronen] Good evening. The recent disturbances in the territories have been described as the most serious and severe since the 6-Day War. There was also the solidarity strike staged by Israel's Arabs, a very serious strike which may have been a turning point, as well as the serious denunciation issued by President Reagan and the U.S. Administration. These are the issues we have been dealing with during this difficult week, and I suppose they are also the issues being dealt with by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir who is the guest of this evening's Moqed program. Good evening to you, Mr Prime Minister.

[Shamir] Good evening.

[Ronen] Mr Shamir, why did you have to wait until today, 2 weeks since the riots erupted in the territories, to take a firm policy of reinforcing troops? Why didn't you take these measures in your capacity as acting defense minister? Did we have to wait for Yitzhaq Rabin's return from abroad?

[Shamir] There was no procrastination. As soon as the riots broke out, the IDF went into the areas and did its best to restore order, and bring life back to normal. As time went by the situation changed and the IDF acquired experience, while other security forces studied the new situation. Now that a few days have gone by, I believe we have reached a certain stage of greater efficiency which will ultimately bring a quick end to this accursed wave of disturbances and bloodshed.

[Goren] Sir, senior officers have told us in the last few days that based on past experience—after all, this is not the first time that there have been disturbances in the territories—they asked as early as the first days to send large numbers of troops to the area in order to obviate the need to use firearms. What actually happened is that the order was given only toward the end of the incidents, after more than 20 people were killed. Why did we not rely on past experience to prevent the opening of fire?

[Shamir] I do not know who these senior officers....

[Goren, interrupting] Very senior officers, sir.

[Shamir] I do not know who these senior and anonymous officers who are always quoted are. Then it turns out nobody knows who or what they are.

[Ronen] They are not anonymous, they just cannot identify themselves.

[Shamir] The truth is that forces were dispatched from the first minute. Of course, a certain degree of organization was required but the orders were clear from the first minute. The orders issued by the chief of staff which were approved by the Cabinet were that reinforced troops should be sent to the area according to needs and developments.

[Ronen] Still, what happened in actual fact, Mr Prime Minister, is that since Defense Minister Rabin's return from abroad 1 or 2 days ago the picture in the territories has changed. I do not know whether this is because troops were reinforced or because orders were changed, but that is what happened.

[Shamir] I do not know that Defense Minister Rabin's return is what did it. I think that is not true. I think it was only a matter of time and the actions taken by the IDF since then.

[Goren] Sir, is it your impression that there are ways to prevent the situation where shots are fired and so many people are killed? Is the IDF equipped to deal with such events?

[Shamir] It is not a question of impressions. Clearly, the IDF's main duty is not to deal with riots but to defend Israel's borders. However, when there is this kind of challenge and threat, the IDF must deal with it and it does just that as best as it can. We have seen the IDF perform in the past when confronted with new challenges. After some time, the IDF got acquainted with the new situation and found the right solution. Sometimes this process takes time, and that is what happened this time. I think the IDF is in control of the situation and has been and it will continue to do whatever is necessary.

[Ronen] Mr Prime Minister, I understand from what you say that the IDF had not been prepared for this large wave of riots in the territories. Could you not anticipate that frustration and despair would afflict the inhabitants of the territories after 20 years, given that they see no way out? Did you not anticipate such a wave of unrest to erupt sooner or later?

[Shamir] Why do you say 20 years? The same could have been said after 5, 10, or 15 years. After all, such events have also taken place in the past, although perhaps not as intense and wide-spread. Waves of unrest have occurred from time to time, and the IDF has coped with them. I reiterate: The IDF has orders to tackle these situations while trying its best to prevent casualties among those attacking it. I think in this case the IDF demonstrated an extraordinary measure of restraint. I do not think any other army in the world would have behaved likewise under the same conditions and circumstances. What happened, however? What happened is that the leaders of the terrorist organizations exploited these incidents. They regard each of their dead men as a reason to rejoice and celebrate. They yearn for casualties among the people they send to stage these riots. This being the case, it is hard to totally prevent casualties although we do not want to inflict them.

[Goren] Sir, don't the latest events in the territories actually make you think that everything—I mean, everything—must be done to promote a political solution even if only to prevent the perpetration of the uncertainty which is undoubtedly the reason for the ferment in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza?

[Shamir] Look, this is not the first time there is ferment. We know the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el do not accept and are not pleased with our rule. This, however, does not mean that we should accept their demands, some of which will put an end to the conflict between us—naturally to their advantage and to their satisfaction.

What is a political solution? Let me tell you what I once read in a biography of David Ben-Gurion. I think it was written by Shabtay Tevet or somebody else, perhaps Mikha'el Bar-Zohar. You probably do not remember but I do, although I was only a boy. Ben-Gurion was not in Israel during the 1929 riots [in which 133 Jews were killed and over 300 wounded]. When he returned to Israel, after the massacres in Hebron and Zefat, the leaders of his party and the Histadrut came to him and told him: Ben-Gurion, things cannot go on like this, a political solution must be found. So he asked them: What is the political solution? And they replied: We do not know, perhaps to stop Jewish immigration, perhaps we should agree that Jews should always constitute a minority here. Let us look for a political solution. Ben-Gurion had the courage to kick them out.

[Goren] What is your conclusion from this, sir?

[Shamir] A political solution is not always what puts an end to the opposition of one's enemy to one's existence. First of all one must repel the dangers and then think about peace, if that is possible. After all, it takes two to make peace, it is not only up to us.

[Ronen] Meanwhile, Mr Prime Minister, Israel's image has suffered serious damage. Many people are saying that Israel, which used to be little David, has now become big Goliath. The Arab population is being likened to a horse while we are the riders on that horse.

[Shamir] My friend, how many times have we heard in the past that David had turned into Goliath? We certainly have many true friends and so-called friends who would like to see us dead, wounded, trampled upon, and oppressed so that they may pity the poor Jew and express their solidarity with our grief. Does the United Nations hold a debate when Jews are killed in this country? That has never been the case. Nevertheless, we do not want to merit anybody's pity, we want to fight for our lives. We do not want to kill our enemies, we just want them not to attack us. If they are prepared to make peace, we are also

willing. We will sit together and discuss the conditions of peace. These attacks and past bloody attacks should not be linked to political solutions.

[Goren] In the past week there have been protests and denunciations by most of the countries that maintain diplomatic relations with Israel. All the denunciations, down to the last one, state that Israel must enter a political process. Of course, they speak about an international conference which you object to. You persist on direct negotiations with King Husayn. Well, maybe the time has come to take action on this matter. King Husayn has categorically announced that he objects to direct contacts. That being the case, what is left for us to do?

[Shamir] First of all, we must end the riots, impose order, and restore normal life. Later, we will hold discussions, as democratic countries do, about what should or should not be done. Plans do exist, of course, and Israel does not consider the so-called status quo sacred. That would not be right. Every Jew in Israel yearns for peace but they are entitled to perceive peace and the way to attain it as they see fit. Negotiations and efforts to achieve a peaceful solution should not be conducted under pressure, threats, and the fear of murderous attacks. Let there first be tranquility and then we will sit down and talk.

[Ronen] Mr Shamir, among the denunciations mentioned by Yig'al a few minutes ago, the most painful or perhaps most blunt is the one issued by the United States and President Reagan about our policy in the territories as well as the U.S. refusal to veto the very serious anti-Israeli resolution made by the UN Security Council. How do you interpret this harsh U.S. denunciation?

[Shamir] Of course, I deeply regret it. I admire President Reagan and will always be grateful to him and his administration for everything they have done for Israel, and everything they are doing for the Jewish people. Nevertheless, occasional differences of opinion crop up even with one's best friend, and this is not the first time. It is interesting to note that approximately 4 years ago I was on an official visit in Washington. In my meeting with President Reagan, and in talks with Secretary of State Shultz, we signed an agreement on strategic cooperation, a cooperation which is being implemented in an excellent manner. We also signed an accord to the effect that Israel and the United States would sign an agreement on the establishment of a free trade zone within 1 year. As is the custom in this kind of visit, when President Reagan announced this agreement at the end of the visit, standing at the entrance to the White House, he said: Today we are entering a period of close cooperation between you and us, and this cooperation will continue and strengthen despite the differences of opinion between the United States and Israel.

[Ronen] Such strong differences of opinion?

[Shamir] Yes, indeed, the wording was excellent. What are the differences of opinion he had in mind? He meant differences about most essential issues such as Israel's borders and the status of Jerusalem. There were differences of opinion then, since this announcement was made following the Reagan initiative of 1 September 1982. Also today I say that differences of opinion exist, unfortunately. I think that we are right, not the U.S. Administration. We will convince them and overcome all these differences. Yet we must realize that the friendship and cooperation between the United States and Israel continues even in these days. This cooperation has now reached a record peak and it will continue in the future, despite the current differences.

[Goren] Sir, I understood what you just said perfectly. Still, our biggest friend, President Reagan, states in his announcement—which people say has almost no precedent—that the serious situation stems from the fact that years have gone by and yet the Palestinian problem has not been solved. The continued occupation not only affects 1.5 million Arabs, but it also harms Israel's self-respect and image, and poses a threat to world peace. These are very harsh words. I asked you before, sir, but you did not answer me. This being the case, what is the solution? What should we do in the future?

[Shamir] I told you, I do not agree with these words. We must, first of all, put an end to this unrest. We have been talking all the time with the Americans about peaceful solutions. The United States is actually the only country in the world which we wholly trust and we are willing to have it help us in the peace efforts. At the end of his last visit to Israel, about 2 months ago, did not the U.S. secretary of state depart our country under the impression that something could be done together with Israel, that there is common ground for action? This cooperation, in terms of efforts for peace as well, will continue despite the current differences whose origin and source I am not aware of. We will overcome them.

[Ronen] Mr Prime Minister, the U.S. Administration admitted that its critical position was to a large extent affected by the unsavory television reports about the incidents in the territories.

[Shamir] Right.

[Ronen] Did you ever contemplate closing scenes of tension to media coverage as Britain, to cite an example, did during the Falklands war?

[Shamir] Such thoughts naturally come up from time to time, but the question is whether this is feasible. We cannot duplicate what was applicable in the Falkland Islands under the circumstances here. At some time it may be possible to close a certain zone, it all depends on the conditions, circumstances, and the impact of such a move. After all, the latter would also have an effect on the media. This is all subject to consideration, nothing is engraved in stone.

[Ronen] Are you considering the occasional closure of scenes of tension to media coverage?

[Shamir] At the moment I am not considering this, as I believe the benefits may not be proportionate to the damage that could result from it. But such a move could be contemplated at some time.

[Goren] Sir, at one time former Prime Minister Menahem Begin planned and almost enforced the application of Israeli law on Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. Do you see this notion as a solution which may put an end to the state of uncertainty and calm the territories?

[Shamir] I do not know when former Prime Minister Menahem Begin planned such a move. I know that Mr Begin's position, as well as that of his successors, is that Israel still feels and considers itself committed to the Camp David Accords.

[Ronen] Mr Prime Minister, last night in Ari'el you said that you were surprised by the intensity of the protest shown by the Israeli Arabs. Did you not expect such a token of solidarity? Were you surprised that the riots reached Yafo, Lod, and other integrated towns that have thus far not been involved in such disturbances?

[Shamir] Was anyone surprised by the fact that I was surprised? We have been living with those Arabs these past 40 years and we know them, we meet with them. It is true that I regard their decision to declare a strike a mistake because one should always see things in their historic context. An Arab sector strike in Eretz Yisra'el has always been a prelude to calamity. Still, this was their decision, and they declared that this would be a peaceful strike. They called it Peace Day. They pledged that it would be a peaceful event, but lo and behold, there was such an outbreak of hatred, loathing, and willingness to destroy, kill, and block roads. Why? Is this a solidarity strike? It was nothing but a show of solidarity with the PLO!

[Goren] So this is what surprised you?

[Shamir] It sure did! I never wanted to believe that such a thing could happen, because I am interested in coexistence. This, however, sounded the alarm to many Israeli citizens. The Arab citizens of Israel must realize this and bear it in mind. They must know that they are embarking on a downhill road. After all, they are undoubtedly well aware of how similar events have ended in the past.

[Ronen] You know, Mr Prime Minister, that this week many cited former Knesset Member 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Zu'bi who said that he suffered from an insoluble conflict between allegiance to his people and loyalty to his country. If you were an Israeli Arab, would you have sided with your people or with your country?

[Shamir] I cannot answer that question on what I would have done if I were....[changes thought] I admit that there is a certain dilemma here. That is true. There is a conflict. Yet shows of violence are not always warranted in every conflict or dilemma. Can the people of Israel tolerate this? After all, this violence has always been linked in our associations with the events of 1948 or even earlier. The PLO, or 'Arafat, is calling upon the Arab citizens of Israel, as though they were the Arabs of 1948, urging them to do today exactly what they did on Monday. Do they decide to obey him? This is the decision they must make. This is the dilemma they are facing: whether to obey 'Arafat or the Israeli authorities.

[Goren] Minister Weizman said this week that he can sympathize with the Israeli Arabs because their identification with the Arabs of the territories can be likened to the solidarity shown by the U.S. Jews to the struggle of their Soviet brethren. Would you agree with this parallelism?

[Shamir] You know, right now, when we are all showing an honest interest in obtaining the maximal degree of national unity, I am not prepared to take issue even with Weizman. Still, what he said is utter nonsense. There is no room for comparison here. The two are not even similar. If the U.S. Jews are displeased with the administration's position toward Israel, would they block roads or throw stones on American children? Would they shout: Massacre the Jews? Here they shouted such slogans! There is absolutely no room for comparison. When an Arab from Yafo throws stones at children on buses traveling from Bat Yam this is reminiscent of events in the 1930's and 1940's, when Bat Yam was separated from Tel Aviv and buses traveled via Yafo. Is this is what they are trying to revive? Does anyone dare to think that this could happen in Israel?

[Goren] But, sir, what about the arguments raised by the leaders of the Arab sector that even though 40 years have already passed, they are not enjoying equal rights and are discriminated against? Can you state unequivocally that the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el have equal rights?

[Shamir] Look, according to our Constitution, or rather our laws, this is definitely the case.

[Ronen] But in practical terms?

[Shamir] In practice, we are trying to observe this, but it is a matter of development. I am prepared to discuss discrimination or instances of inequality. I would be the last to endorse discrimination. Yet this has nothing to do with the shouts calling for the massacre of Jews.

[Goren] Perhaps everything is interlinked?

[Ronen] Perhaps this is cumulative bitterness?

[Shamir] No, no. The Arabs in Israel are absolutely adept at distinguishing between a legitimate fight for rights and a fight against the very existence and essence of this state.

[Ronen] Mr Prime Minister, whom would you say that the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el, namely those who reside within the Green Line, are presently identifying more closely with: the Palestinian people supportive of the PLO, or the State of Israel?

[Shamir] I would say it is up to them. I urge them to think carefully which road they would like to take. They must make up their minds whether they are going to pursue the PLO's course or whether they will continue to be loyal citizens of Israel. I believe, and hope, that they will decide to pursue the road of loyal citizenship and peaceful coexistence. This is what we want. Should they refuse to take this road, the conclusions we will draw will be very harsh.

[Ronen] Mr Shamir, do you think that the PLO's plan of establishing a government-in-exile is feasible? Does it mark a change in its line?

[Shamir] I do not know. Everyone claims that my favorite saying is: deja vu. I have already seen it all before. Is this the first time the PLO has mentioned a plan to set up a government? We have heard it many times before. It is all wild imaginings.

[Goren] Mr Prime Minister, yesterday Shim'on Peres exhorted everyone to rise above the differences of opinion between the Alignment and the Likud at this time. Yet when you addressed the RAF [Reshimat Po'aley Yisra'el, Israel Laborers List] Central Committee last week, at the height of the unrest, you talked about the Labor Party's spirit of defeatism as manifested in its preference of partisan interests over state interests. Why?

[Shamir] Look, I said on that occasion and even earlier that insofar as events in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza are concerned, we must not introduce the political argument into the issue. I said that on this we were all united and must all work together as one. The IDF has met the challenge. It is not a political tool but a national army. Nevertheless, the political confrontation can and will continue. There are differences of opinion, and they are part of our democratic society. But now, particularly in view of Monday's events and this outbreak of Arab hostility, I say: Friends, let us handle this matter and cease our political disputes.

[Ronen] Still, Mr Prime Minister, perhaps it would be wise to think about the future. Tomorrow, or maybe in a week, life will presumably return to normal. I am sure neither you as prime minister, nor the government as a whole, would want to wait for the eruption of the next wave of violence. Do you have any plans? I know you have frequently been asked about the Gaza Strip, which is such a critical place and where the problems are very grave. What are our plans? How will we face the 1 million Arabs who will reside there by the year 2000? How will we confront the serious demographic problem which you may underestimate but which nevertheless exists?

[Goren] Let me add one more question to the above, if you will allow me. There is no doubt, sir, that all those who watch you today are awaiting some piece of news from you, some message regarding the critical question of how to extricate ourselves from this endless vicious cycle. Riots and demonstrations occur time and time again. How do we get out of this?

[Shamir] Please do not intimidate or frighten us. It is not a repeated occurrence, these things only happen infrequently. If you expect something new, I am sure you will concede that you do not believe the idea of an international conference, first mentioned publicly in 1975, is exactly new. We have ideas and plans.

[Ronen] Well, what are they?

[Shamir] We have often discussed them with our friends in the United States, as we have with the Egyptians. See for yourselves, if you peruse the national unity government's basic guidelines, which were acceptable both to us and the Alignment, they say that it is necessary to aspire to direct negotiations. We are prepared to do so with Jordan on the basis of the Camp David Accords. In case you have already forgotten, let me remind you that the Camp David Accords devoted an entire chapter to the detailed description of a clear solution to the Palestinian problem, the problem of the inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. This description included how they would live under full autonomous conditions, although this was going to apply for only a limited period of time, and how the autonomous rule would function.

[Goren] But is there anyone who would buy this today?

[Shamir] What do you mean by this?

[Ronen] We have no partner to discuss this with.

[Shamir] Give me some other arguments.

[Goren] Is Husayn committed to the Camp David Accords?

[Shamir] And are we committed to Husayn's plans or resolutions? We have our own position. What is the meaning of negotiations? I present my position, and the other side presents its position. Should we bow to dictates? When did we ever succumb to dictates? When Al-Sadat came here, did he dictate anything to us? He surprised Carter, he actually took the whole world by surprise. But did this not lead to negotiations? Did it not result in a peace agreement?

[Goren] Last week, when asked about the situation, Minister Ari'el Sharon said that Israel's real problem is that it is suffering from a leadership crisis. How do you read his comments?

[Shamir] I am not an analyst of Sharon's remarks. Those who interviewed him could have taken the opportunity to ask him. I do not need to interpret his remarks, and I do not know exactly what he meant.

[Ronen] Perhaps I may venture to interpret his remarks as meaning that the Arabs of Israel and the territories perceive this leadership as weak, and, seeing this as a general sign of weakness, could conceivably be prompted to rebel or exacerbate the unrest.

[Shamir] Look, I would not like to engage in interpretations, even of Minister Sharon's remarks. Nonetheless, I agree and it is true that the Arabs view our political clashes as a sign of weakness. They do not comprehend the meaning of democracy. They have never experienced such a thing. Nevertheless, they are aware of the conflict between the parties, the differences of opinion, and the mutual attacks and see them as a manifestation of the dissolution of Israel. They are euphoric, thinking now that if Israel is torn by conflicts, or if some odd Knesset members come to them to express support and encouragement, then Israel is sinking low, or—to quote a phrase which someone used but which I do not accept—Israel is in the dumps. A very well-known Egyptian figure whose name I do not wish to disclose once said that Israel is at an ebb. A lot of time has passed since then, and we are far from being in a poor situation, even today. Once again, this is the proverbial Arab exaggeration, the Arabs' imagination running rampant. They do not read us correctly. They must be told that Israel is strong, and that when it is united, it is stronger still. But when attempts are made to attack it or threaten its existence, it will prove that it can withstand not only the Arabs around us. And we will.

[Ronen] Mr Prime Minister, we must end this interview, but let me ask you one final question. Shim'on Peres said yesterday that Israel will not see another national unity government. Do you think that even if the next elections result in a tie there will be no national unity government?

[Shamir] Look, if indeed Mr Peres actually said this, I can only resent one thing: that he said this to others rather than to us. All in all, however, I can say that Mr Peres said the same thing before the last election, and after the election he played a very active role in setting up the national unity government. Thus, I really would not take this statement too seriously.

[Ronen] Do you suppose Mr Peres will change his mind after the next election?

[Shamir] I have no idea. It depends on the results of the election and on the situation that will be created before and during the election. Let us wait and see. As you know, I am a firm believer in national unity.

[Ronen] Mr Prime Minister, thank you very much for coming to the Moqed studios this evening. I wish to thank our political correspondent Yig'al Goren as well. Good night to all our listeners and see you next week.

[Shamir] Thank you.

King Husayn Returns From Moscow Visit 23 Dec

JN231853 Amman Television Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn, Her Majesty Queen Nur, and the delegation accompanying them returned to the homeland this evening following an official 3-day visit to the Soviet Union.

His Majesty King Husayn held talks with Andrey Gromyko, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, CPSU Central Committee general secretary. The talks dealt with the pressing issues in the regional and international arenas. [passage omitted]

U.S. Stand on UN Resolution 'Indefensible'

JN240941 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
24 Dec 87 p 25

[News analysis: "The Security Council and American Influence"]

[Text] With the occupied Arab land still in agitation and uprising, Israel persists in terrorizing and repressing the peaceful citizens within the sight and hearing of the world. This heroic struggle shines like the sun—so much so that no one can denigrate it or conceal its glow. It is a popular, spontaneous expression and an outburst against injustices.

The uprising prompted international action through the UN Security Council, which encountered U.S. procrastination before it passed a weak resolution. Meanwhile, certain facts come to the fore:

First: This revolution, springing from the people's conscience, is a reaction to an accumulation of arbitrariness, injustices, and denial of rights over a span of more than 20 years of occupation. The Arabs in Palestine occupied since 1948 have experienced similar Zionist arrogance. This spontaneous outburst just had to be: Arabs in the occupied land have had it; Arab despair and frustration and Zionist bigotry conspired to bring about confrontation.

Second: Israel has sought to portray the uprising as being inspired and propelled by foreign-based elements. While it is true that there is interaction between Arabs inside and outside the occupied land, the current uprising has to do with bitter realities on the ground.

Favoring Zionist arbitrariness, the American position at the UN Security Council, which had the resolution amended and disemboweled, is indefensible.

By way of explaining the American stand, Herbert Okun, U.S. delegate at the United Nations, said: "The United States views the demonstrations as a spontaneous expression of frustration and does not think that they are directed from outside."

He asserted: "The severe measures taken by the Israeli occupation authorities to restore order are unacceptable." He then called for a peaceful solution to the Mideast conflict. As well as being an exercise in hypocrisy, the statement damns the United States; innocent people are being repressed, slaughtered, and jailed, yet the United States insists on striking a balance between the killers and their victims. The tragedy is that the United States emptied the Security Council resolution of all content.

Rather than denouncing "the aggression," the resolution deplored Israeli measures and rather than calling for sending a UN representative to study the situation firsthand, the resolution asked the UN chief to present observations on 20 January. Meanwhile, the Security Council resolution made an unspecified reference to the Geneva conventions on occupation. Even after the resolution was twisted under American pressure to suit Israel, the United States abstained from voting.

Third: This American position fits in with the strategic alliance between the United States and the Zionist enemy and with the recently-signed agreement, under which the United States works to ensure Israel's security and superiority. American utterances and comments which did not please Israel were part of an American-Zionist scenario in the context of a close alliance.

As for the Security Council resolution, passed under pressure from worldwide public opinion, denouncing Israel's barbarity and bestiality, it was pale, underlying the impotence of the world body against American-Zionist influence.

French Hostages 'Expected' Released in 48 Hours

NC240712 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] The AL-ANWAR newspaper cites diplomatic sources as having said that two foreign hostages are expected to be released within the next 48 hours. The sources, who were reported to have said that two French hostages are the ones likely to be freed, refused to be more specific about the time for their release.

FRG Hostage To Be Freed

JN240921 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0900 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] According to the Beirut papers AL-ANWAR and AL-SHARQ, two French hostages and a West German hostage will be released between Christmas and the New Year.

The pro-Syria AL-SHARQ, citing Western diplomatic sources, reports that the West German hostage Rudolf Cordes, and two unidentified French hostages will be freed between Christmas and the New Year.

The conservative AL-ANWAR, citing diplomatic sources, reports that two French hostages will be released within the next 48 hours, and may be released on Christmas Day.

Syrian Forces in Beirut Placed on Alert

NC231802 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] The Syrian Army Command in West Beirut today declared a state of maximum alert among the ranks of the Syrian Armed Forces. The Command canceled all leave until further notice.

Special units and regular forces began setting up mobile and stationary barriers in West Beirut and southern suburb streets up to the Khaldah triangle. They also set up checkpoints to search cars and passengers, causing traffic jams.

Syrian intelligence elements have begun to interrogate the youths who were arrested in the area where the bodies of two Syrians were found today. Security forces say more than 100 persons have been detained.

UN Delegate Complaint on Israeli 'Aggression'

NC231633 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has disclosed that the Foreign Ministry has cabled the Lebanese permanent delegate to the United Nations. The Lebanese delegate was instructed to lodge an urgent complaint with the UN Security Council regarding the practices and recent acts of aggression by the Israeli occupation forces against a number of towns and villages in the south.

Earlier, Al-Huss had consulted on this matter with Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Chamber of Deputies; lawyer Nabih Birri, minister of state for the south; Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council; and Grand Ja'farite Mufti Shaykh 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan.

Islamic Grouping Lauds Palestinian 'Uprising'

NC231454 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] The Islamic Grouping has viewed the uprising in the occupied territories as the most sincere expression of the Arab's commitment to his land and his right to Palestine. It considered the uprising by the West Bank and Gaza Strip inhabitants a legitimate and just right.

In its regular meeting today, the Islamic Grouping urged all countries throughout the world to support the Palestinians in their demands, to quickly act to halt the continuing massacre and acts of violence, and to help implement the UN Security Council resolutions, which have remained merely ink on paper thus far.

Report Cites 'Largest Ever' Iranian Assistance

NC240813 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] According to a news media report, Iran's assistance to the Lebanese Shi'ites constitutes the largest ever foreign assistance program undertaken by that country since the outbreak of the Islamic revolution in 1979. Iran, the report says, spends approximately $5 million a month on aid and provides financial and welfare assistance through Hizballah in a bid to strengthen its influence in Lebanon.

Afghanistan

Khowst Siege Continues; Peace Talks 'Deadlocked'

BK240758 Hong Kong AFP in English 0725 GMT 24 Dec 87

[By Gilles Bertin]

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 24 (AFP)—Soviet troops in Afghanistan are no longer looking for an elusive military victory over the mujahidin guerrillas but are firmly holding their ground to maintain a credible negotiating position in peace talks, observers say here.

As the eighth anniversary of their intervention approaches, the Soviet force of an estimated 115,000 troops has been having a hard time beating off mujahidin attacks, especially in Paktia Province some 120 kilometres (80 miles) south of the capital, Kabul, and around the southern city of Qandahar, observers said.

The Soviet command has had to send for bombers, armoured vehicles and several units, some from the Soviet Union itself, to prevent the eastern garrison town of Khowst falling to the guerrillas. The town is defended by several thousand Afghan soldiers backed up by Soviet advisers.

There has been heavy fighting along the twisting mountain road from the provincial capital, Gardyez, to Khowst, since early December, diplomatic sources said here.

For the first time since their troops marched into Afghanistan on December 27, 1979, Soviet viewers Saturday were able to see film of the fighting around Khowst on television.

The television commentator told them that the town had been cut off by the rebels for several years and had to be resupplied by air-drops at night.

"This offensive to lift the siege of Khowst will perhaps be the last major Soviet military operation before the real peace talks begin," one analyst said.

Talks on a peaceful settlement of the conflict and a Soviet troop withdrawal within 12 months or less remain deadlocked despite Moscow's stepped up diplomatic moves.

The Soviet Union insists that it is ready to bring its troops home providing foreign aid to the mujahidin is cut off.

But these Soviet "gesticulations," as they are described by Western diplomats here, are worthless without agreement on what is to happen to the current pro-Soviet regime in Kabul, analysts say.

Demoralised troops now loyal to Kabul would last only a few months against the mujahidin if the Soviet Union withdrew unconditionally, analysts say here.

For their part, the mujahidin refuse to have anything to do with the "puppet regime" of Afghan leader Dr. Najibullah who has proposed the setting up of a coalition government led by his Communist Party.

Washington will not halt its aid to the guerrillas until the last details of the Soviet troop withdrawal have been fixed, U.S. officials have said.

For the mujahidin, 1987 has been above all the year of the "Stinger," the U.S. portable anti-aircraft missile with which the mujahidin have taken a heavy toll of planes and helicopters.

The Soviet-Afghan forces have meanwhile taken great care to protect their lines of communication, but without the major anti-guerrilla sweeps which were a feature of the fighting in 1984 and 1985.

The seven main rebel groups are loosely joined together in the mujahidin alliance but rivalries persist, often leading to violence.

The Hezb-e-Eslami group has often been accused by its more moderate partners in the alliance of wanting to extend its influence by force of arms and of preparing an arms stock-pile.

Several eye-witnesses returning from Afghanistan have reported clashes between the Hezb-e-Eslami and the Jamiat [e-Eslami] group.

Some 3,000 Soviet and Afghan troops were killed or wounded during the year, a U.S. State Department study said recently.

Commentary on Pakistani Support for Mujahidin

LD240737 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0421 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] Kabul, December 23, BAKHTAR—A political observer of BAKHTAR writes:

Daily "NATION", printed in Lahore, quoting Humidullah Niazi, one of the ringleaders of Afghanistan opposition extremist bands has reported that over one thousand Pakistanis are directly involved in war operations against the Republic of Afghanistan.

The Pakistani daily has added that Hamidullah Niazi in his press conference in Lahore city in Pakistan has admitted that one of his assistants Ataullah is a Pakistani citizen and there are in his group Pakistanis who are involved in the military operations against the Government of Afghanistan. According to Niazi, the conduct of war operations against Afghanistan is impossible without the support of Pakistan.

This is not for the first time that undeniable and specific facts about the direct involvement of Pakistan in the continuation of the undeclared war against Afghanistan are revealed. These criminal acts of Pakistani authorities run counter to all accepted norms of inter-state laws and to the principles of neighbourliness between nations.

Contrary to the will of the people of Pakistan, the military regime of Islamabad considers the continuation of interventions and aggressions against Afghanistan and the fanning up of tension in the region to its benefit. The regime intends to draw the support of reactionary and imperialist forces through the military alliance of Washington-Islamabad and by pursuing the aggressive strategy of Reagan administration.

The exposure of the fact that the Pakistani forces are directly involved in war operations against the people of Afghanistan takes place at a time when the Republic of Afghanistan has been focusing its efforts to realise the policy of national reconciliation, to cease war and bloodshed and to normalise the situation around Afghanistan. This honest effort of the leadership of the country has received the support of vast international circles.

Undoubtedly, those who have ignored the peaceful efforts of the Republic of Afghanistan for securing durable peace and security in the region and intend to keep inflamed the war in Afghanistan they themselves will be burnt in its flame.

Bangladesh

Ershad Reshuffles Cabinet Portfolios

BK231256 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] The Bangladesh president on Wednesday reallocated portfolios of some ministers and state ministers. According to the reallocation, Minister Major General, retired, M. Lhamsul Haq will now hold the charge of the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation; Mirza Ruhul Amin, the Ministry of Social Welfare and Women Affairs; Anwar Zahid, the Ministry of Information; State Minister Mustafa Jamal Haider, Ministry of Labor and Manpower Resources; and State Minister Professor Abdus Salam, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock. The president also appointed AVM [Air Vice Marshal] Ruhul Amin Havaldar as his adviser. During his tenure of office, Mr Havaldar will enjoy the status of a state minister.

Ershad Reiterates Promise of Fair Elections

BK231605 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] President Ershad has said elections will be held and the polls will be fair. He called upon the opposition political parties to go to the people for their mandate instead of indulging in terrorism and indiscipline. Addressing a big peasants rally at Shenbagh in Noakhali today, he reiterated that there is no alternative to elections, which is the only constitutional means for changing the government. The president said politics of hartal [strike] and anarchy which disrupts the economic life of the people can never bring popularity for anybody. Those who have no support among the people are trying to reap benefits by creating chaos. He said the politics of indiscipline and terrorism are confined to the cities only. Time is not far off when these elements who have been working against the interest of the people will not be able to go to the rural areas if they continue their politics of disruption.

Continued political stability is of paramount importance for achieving progress and development. In this context he mentioned various steps taken by his government to ensure stability through a democratic process. But he admitted that when the nation was passing through an era of peace and stability, some political elements have taken recourse to disruption and terrorism to undo the hard-earned progress and development.

The president said the so-called movement launched by these elements is not aimed at progress and prosperity. They want to enslave the nation at the hands of those who have never wanted us to make self-reliant. If industries remain closed and production disrupted, who are going to be benefited, he asked. By disrupting normal economic life, these handful of elements want to make the country a market of low quality foreign goods, he observed. The people are now aware of those who instigate school and college students to join procession and throw bombs, while sending their own children abroad for education. The people will no more accept this situation and foil the activities of such elements against the interest of the nation.

Opposition Parties Reaffirm Election Demand

BK240226 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] The BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party] chairman and seven-party alliance leader, Begum Khaleda Zia, has pledged to continue the present movement until the opposition demands are fulfilled. Talking to newsmen in Dhaka yesterday, Begum Zia observed that only election under a neutral government could ensure free and impartial polls in the country.

The Awami League president and eight-party alliance leader, Sheikh Hasina Wajed, has reiterated her resolve to continue the present movement. Addressing a news conference in the capital yesterday, she said they would not stop their program until the government concedes to what she termed as the national will. Sheikh Hasina again demanded the withdrawal of emergency and release of all political detenues [detainees] and reaffirmed her alliance's stand of not sitting for any dialogue with the present government.

The Central Five Party at a meeting presided over by Workers Party leader, Hyder Akbar Khan Rana, has again demanded immediate release of its leaders and workers. Acting general secretary of the Communist Party Central Committee, Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, in a statement has called for continued struggle by the opposition till their goal is achieved. Hindu Oikya Front chairman, Manindra Nath Sarkar, said free and fair election can be guaranteed only through a dialogue between the government and the opposition. While demanding an all-party government for neutral election, the Jana Dal has called upon all to help create necessary conditions for holding free and fair poll. The other parties and groups which have issued statements include the Gana Azadi League, Jatiyatabadi Ganatantrik Chashi Dal, Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal, Samajtantrik Chhatra Front, Central 22 Students Organization, Bangladesh Voters Majlis, Jatiya Nagarik Sanghati, and Bangladesh Chemical Workers Employees Federation.

India

Tamil Nadu Official Dies; Acting Chief Named

BK240320 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Excerpts] The Tamil Nadu chief minister, Mr M.G. Ramachandran [MGR], is dead. He was 70. The end came at 0300 this morning. Mr Ramachandran suddenly developed cardiac arrest at midnight last night while he was sleeping. Immediately, a team of medical experts was summoned which attended on him. [passage omitted]

The Government of India has declared a day's national mourning today. All central government offices throughout the country will remain closed. The national flag will fly at half-mast. A state mourning for 1 week has been announced in Tamil Nadu. All the government offices and educational institutions in the state will remain closed for 2 days. [passage omitted]

The president, Mr R. Venkataraman, is rushing to Madras to pay his respects to the departed leader. The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, who has already left for Madras, had his last meeting with MGR when he was in Madras on Monday and Tuesday [21 and 22 December]. [passage omitted]

Here is a flash: The seniormost minister in the MGR cabinet, Mr V.R. Nedunchezhiyan, has been sworn in as the acting chief minister of the state.

Riots Reported 23 Dec

BK240544 Hong Kong AFP in English 0525 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] Madras, India, Dec 24 (AFP)—Police opened fire to quell riots in at least three places as dozens of cars were stoned here Thursday following the death of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.G. Ramachandran, witnesses said.

Large gangs were looting shops, breaking windows and stoning cars, an AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE correspondent reported.

The city had been totally paralysed and vehicles, even bicycles, attempting to move were halted immediately by crowds mourning the death, witnesses said.

Police were not intervening, but had fired over the heads of crowds in at least three places, the correspondent said.

Transport had ground to a halt all over the state of 55 million people, official reports said. The state government has declared a week of mourning and all schools, colleges and government offices will remain shut for the week.

Mr. Ramachandran, aged 70, who died early Thursday, was virtually worshipped as a god-incarnate in the southern state and security forces have long predicted street disturbances when he died.

In the past several people have immolated themselves when he fell seriously ill.

Murder of Sri Lankan Official Condemned

BK231630 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] India has condemned the assassination of Mr Harish Abeywardene. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi today that the Indian Government condemns all such terrorism.

Thirteen LTTE men have been killed and three wounded in the peacekeeping force [PKF] operations in Jaffna Peninsula during the last 24 hours. PKF casualties include three jawans [soldiers] killed and four wounded. Ten LTTE men were killed in a major clash which took place between PKF and LTTE in Urumpirai area. Three other LTTE men were killed in two separate incidents.

A PKF patrol was ambushed in Chavakachcheri, killing three jawans and wounding four. Reports say that there has been extensive demoralization among the LTTE cadre in light of the firm stand taken by the Indian Government. As the cadres are defecting from their groups, LTTE is trying to get reinforcements from the Eastern Province.

An official spokesman said in New Delhi today that normal activities go on in Jaffna. Power supply has been completely restored except for the industrial area.

Crackdown on Gurkha Front Members Continues

BK231615 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] In West Bengal, the police crackdown on GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] activists continues in Darjeeling hill areas. The district magistrate [DM]

told our Siliguri correspondent this evening that 17 GNLF activists were arrested in a nightlong raid from three different places in Darjeeling town. Six of them have been arrested under the Antiterrorist Act.

The DM said attendance in government offices in Darjeeling and Kalimpong continues to be thin, while it has improved in Kurseong. Reports of intimidation and obstruction of willing employees by agitationists have also come in.

The Darjeeling district administration today took a tough stand on striking employees. In an announcement, it said the striking employees will be penalized with pay cut, break in service, and even dismissal if they fail to justify their absence in writing.

The director general of police said in Siliguri that the morale of the police in Darjeeling, Kurseong, and Kalimpong is very high and they are doing an excellent job. Talking to newsmen after a 3-day visit to the hill areas, he said that he has held a series of discussions with local officials to assess the requirements of the force to meet the recent spate in violence in these areas.

Missing Soviet Scholar Requests Asylum

BK231600 Hong Kong AFP in English 1544 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Excerpt] New Delhi, Dec 23 (AFP)—A Soviet scholar who was reported missing here last week is at the Australian High Commission (embassy) in New Delhi where he has asked for political asylum, an Australian diplomat said Wednesday.

Brett Martin, first secretary at the High Commission, said Australian diplomats were consulting the Soviet and Indian Governments on how to resolve the situation. He declined to comment further. [passage omitted]

Protocol on Textbooks Signed With USSR

BK240408 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] An Indo-Soviet protocol on joint text book program was signed in Delhi today. Under the program, standard Soviet university-level text and reference books are selected, translated, and made available to Indian students in low-price editions. The program was signed by the secretary of education of the Government of India, Mr Anil Bodia, and the Soviet deputy minister of higher education and specialized secondary education, Prof N.S. Yegorov. So far 600 Soviet books evaluated by Indian experts in the fields of science, technology, medicine, and agriculture have been brought out in English and other Indian languages. It is proposed to strengthen the program further by bringing out books on science and technology, particularly in the fields of electronics, space research, computer software, and biotechnology. It has also been decided to strengthen the co-author program for writing text books in Indian languages for the students of Soviet universities.

U.S. Aid to Pakistan Called 'Myopic'

BK231406 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 7 Dec 87 p 6

[Editorial: "Myopic as Ever"]

[Text] The U.S. Congress has finally obliged Gen. Ziaul Haq and cleared the way for the grant of $4.02 billion in military and economic assistance to his regime for six years from October 1987. It did so by approving $587 billion in U.S. federal spending which includes a proportionate provision for Pakistan for this year. The administration's aid package to Pakistan was stalled in October following the embarrassment caused to it by the Arshad Pervez case which brought to light yet another Pakistani violation of the American law barring export of nuclear materials. The U.S. concern over the surreptitious Pak pursuit of a nuclear weapons programme has thus proved to be short-lived. It transpires that the US administration and a majority on Capitol Hill prefer to continue to give precedence to the need, as they see it, to strengthen the Pakistan military leadership as an invaluable client.

What Washington is doing today is not just a continuation of an old policy. An attempt is being made to give an additional anti-Indian twist to it. This is the plain meaning of the amendment adopted by the Senate Sub-Comittee for Appropriations making even the transfer of high technology to India conditional on New Delhi agreeing to subject its nuclear facilities to international inspection. This move is apparently the outcome of a collusion between the tireless Pak propagandists in the US and the surviving advocates of the cold war ideology who have thrived under the Reagan administration. If it goes through in the full Committee and the Senate, the amendment will severely strain Indo-American ties. US policy to the region—Mr Rajiv Gandhi's much touted "successful visit" notwithstanding—remains as myopic as it has ever been.

Iran

Official Says Khomeyni's Health 'Very Good'

NC241311 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 24 Dec 87

[text] 'Ali Asghar Muhammadi, political adviser at the Iranian Embassy in Lebanon, has said that Imam Khomeyni is in very good health. Muhammadi, who made this remark after a meeting at the Foreign Ministry this afternoon with Ambassador Fu'ad al-Turk, the Foreign Ministry's secretary general, also described Lebanese-Iranian ties as cordial, saying that the main problem is the continued Israeli occupation of a segment of southern Lebanon

Khomeyni Ruling on State Powers Reported

LD232327 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in reply to a letter from the Council of Guardians concerning the question of determining the limits of the powers of the state in designating binding terms, has graciously stated:

The state can, even without the necessity of determining the price, take away what is being used. This is enforceable in all cases falling under the hegemony of the government and does not apply solely to those cases mentioned in the letter of the minister of labor. The text of the letter from Ayatollah Lotfollah Safi, secretary of the Council of Guardians, to the imam of the ummah is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. To the honorable presence of the eminent gracious leader of the Islamic revolution, the Grand Ayatollah Imam Khomeyni, may his blessings continue. Salutations, greetings, and wishes for long life and health for you under the shadow of God; may our lives be sacrificed for Him.

We are troubling you about the fatwa [a ruling issued by an expert on Islamic law (Shari'ah)] issued by your grace with regard to the question that the state can, in return for the use of state and public resources and services, enforce binding terms. A large number of people have stated that in this case the state can, by using this power, replace those fundamental and directly Islamic systems [nezamat] by any kind of social, economic, labor, family, commercial, urban affairs, agricultural, or other system, and can make the services and facilities that are the monopoly of the state and that people have little or no choice but to utilize, into an instrument for the implementation of general and comprehensive policies. In this way, it can forbid or make binding those dimensions and terms of Islamic law that are in fact mobah [permitted but optional behavior]. Obviously, in the case of those facilities that are not under the monopoly of the state and in which the state figures as an ordinary party, or in cases that do not concern the designation of a public system [nezam-e 'am] to cover public issues, or when it concerns the system of the utilization of a particular service, your reply concerning these set of circumstances is explicit and irrefutable.

However, concerning public affairs and services, the provision of which has been placed under the monopoly of the state, its designation as a binding condition, covering a variety of regulations not extendable to all cases, and its extension to all cases, strata, parts, and [word indistinct] has caused this worry that the regulations of Islam, whether mozare'eh [a contract between a landowner and a farmer to till the soil and divide the crops] rent, commerce, family, or other relationships may practically cease and be placed in danger of change and replacement. In short, people believe that this fatwa has opened the door to those who want to use it to bring about any kind of social or economic order.

Obviously, in the same way that your exalted view has been a path-opener in all cases, in this case, too, it will be a remover of mistakes. May the days of guarding and greatness and safeguarding of Islam continue!

[Signed] The secretary of the Council of Guardians, Loftollah Safi

The text of the response of the imam of the ummah is as follows:

In the name of God, the Almighty: The state can, in all cases in which the people utilize the possibilities and services of the government, according to Islamic terms and even without being bound by the terms of value, take away from people what is being utilized by them. This is enforceable in all cases under the hegemony of the state and is not specific to the cases mentioned in the minister of labor's letter. Rather, it can enforce this term, without any conditions or with binding condition in the case of public natural resources, resources which in the entire lifespan of the Islamic Government are under the power of the government. The honorable gentlemen must not pay attention to rumors circulated by irresponsible profiteers or those opposed to the regime of the Islamic republic; rumors can be created in any issue.

With greetings to you and the blessing of God.

[Signed] Ruhollah al-Musavi al-Khomeyni

Khamene'i Chairs Cabinet Meeting on Agriculture

LD231343 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] President Khamene'i chaired a meeting of the cabinet this morning. Our correspondent notes that political events at home and in the region were discussed. The country's agricultural situation was also debated and opinions were exchanged in the presence of Mr Fazel-Harandi, chairman of the Majlis Agriculture Commission. The necessary decisions were made.

At the end of the session, Mr Khamene'i answered a question from our correspondent on the issues raised at today's cabinet meeting.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr Khamene'i, you chaired today's cabinet meeting. Please tell us what important subjects were discussed.

[Khamene'i] Several issues were examined, but the most important point raised, which took the bulk of our time and caused the meeting to run longer than usual, was agriculture and its importance for the country. Regardless of the political position we may have, agriculture will undoubtedly be the country's top priority after the war.

Agricultural matters had to be discussed at the cabinet meeting. The minister of agriculture, Dr Zali, submitted an extensive report and the brother members of the cabinet asked him many questions. We concluded that coordinated debates on agriculture must be held at future cabinet sessions or at least in one session which, God willing, will take place next week.

In general, agriculture in our country requires substantial and comprehensive efforts by all officials. If we are to follow our agricultural situation properly and in a way suited to the present circumstances, we should have the cooperation of all sectors. Part of the problem is beyond the range of the Ministry of Agriculture, problems that cannot be solved by one ministry alone. Therefore, the entire government or a number of ministries should cooperate to solve them. Clearly, the Ministries of Industries, Roads, Plan and Budget, Energy, and Construction Jihad are among those needed to help run the country's agriculture in the best possible way. One of the main subjects discussed at the session, one stressed by most of our brothers, was the farmers, village life, and the question of villages. That is an important subject in itself. In any case, some good points were raised and we made some progress. God willing, we will be able to do more at the next session and in future ones. [end recording]

Velayati Meets With Iraqi Kurdish Leader
LD231816 Tehran IRNA in English 1741 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 23, IRNA—Head of Iraq's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) Jalal Talebani called on Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Wednesday to thank the Islamic Republic for its cooperation with Iraqi Kurdish peshmergas struggling against the Baghdad regime.

Talebani briefed Velayati on the present situation in northern Iraq and victories achieved by Kurdish peshmergas against Iraqi Ba'thist troops in the face of heavy odds.

He also presented the foreign minister a report on the Baghdad regime's chemical bombardment and destruction of hundreds of Kurdish-populated villages in northern Iraq.

In response, Velayati described victories gained in northern Iraq by Iraqi Kurds backed-up by the Islamic Republic as "great" which, he said have played a key role in further destabilizing the ruling Ba'thist regime.

Velayati underlined the need for all Iraqi opposition groups, irrespective of whether they were Shi'ites, Sunnis, Kurds or Arabs, to close ranks against the Baghdad regime, so as to set up a popular government in their country.

Velayati Calls for Expansion of Pakistan Ties
LD240721 Tehran IRNA in English 0712 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 24, IRNA—A leading Pakistani Shi'ite alim condemned interference of the superpowers and reactionary regimes in the affairs of the region and called for unity and solidarity of Muslims.

Aref Husseini [name as received], who met Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Wednesday, expressed 'Pakistani people's heartfelt feelings for Islam and amicable ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran.'

Stressing Iran's eagerness in following up the developments in Pakistan, Velayati referred to common historical, cultural and Islamic ties between the two countries and called for further contacts between the two nations.

He also called for further expansion of the existing bilateral political, economic and cultural relations.

The two sides also exchanged views on cultural, social and Islamic affairs of the two countries and the Islamic world.

Emigre Paper on Airport's 'Deliberate Closure'
WA232135 London KEYHAN in Persian 10 Dec 87 p 1

[Text] Last Thursday [3 December], Tehran's Mehrabad Airport was suddenly closed to aircraft taking off or landing. A Soviet plane that was ready to land was refused permission to do so and returned to the Soviet Union. Several domestic flights were rerouted to nearby cities.

The closure of Mehrabad Airport followed the dreadful sound of explosions, as well as firing, in several parts of the city. However, the Islamic Republic has issued no report on the possible reasons for these incidents.

Without mentioning the deliberate closure of Mehrabad Airport, the Islamic Republic's radio suggested at the end of the news at 1400 on Thursday, half an hour after the dreadful explosions were heard in Tehran, that the firing was a necessary air defense measure caused by a confrontation with the enemy.

Reports from Tehran note that the firing occurred in northern Tehran, near Pasdaran Headquarters on Sultanabad Street, and in the area around Shahyad [now Azadi] Square.

Mehrabad Airport was closed down 3 months ago as well, following the hijacking of an Esfahan to Tehran passenger plane by followers of Mehdi Hashemi.

Feda'yeen-e Khalq Statement on Palestinians

LD232151 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 1530 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Dear listeners, please pay attention to a statement issued by the Central Committee of the Feda'yeen-e Khalq organization, Majority, on the occasion of the epic uprising of the heroic people of Palestine. Victory to the epic uprising of the Palestinian people in the occupied lands!

Compatriots, it has been close to 2 weeks since the solid rising of the heroic Palestinian people against the devilish Israeli Zionists began. During this time, the barbaric suppression of the strikes and demonstrations has continued in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank of the Jordan River, the Golan Heights, and other areas under the occupation of the Israeli Zionists.

During the past few days, dozens of people were martyred, either by machinegun fire in the streets or under bestial torture in the detention camps. Thousands have been arrested, and all of the occupied regions have been plunged in strikes and lock-outs. The Zionist oppressors had earlier attacked several Palestinian camps in unmanly and bloody raids and thus spread the fire of anger of the residents of those camps to all people who have risen against oppression.

The continuous shelling of the defenseless people of the occupied lands, as well as the barbaric attack on southern Lebanon, have led to the ever increasing resolve of the Palestinian fighters to continue their just resistence.

By signing a new military agreement and receiving modern weapons from its principal supporter, imperialism, the Zionist regime of Israel has begun the slaughter of the defenseless people of the occupied lands at a time when hope-inspiring efforts are underway, and are nearing success, to solve the problem of Palestine and the Middle East at an international conference with the participation of the PLO as the only legal representative of the Palestinian people. Fearing the opening of such an international conference that could solve the problem, and which is the only solution for the Palestinian issue in the interests of these victimized people, the Israeli occupation forces see in the removal of the oldest element of tension in the region the end to their domineering and bullying, as well as that of their U.S. supporters.

Compatriots, the new and devastating wave of resistance by the Palestinian people is supported by the widespread strata of progressive humanity throughout the world. The whole world is filled with anger and hatred because of the inhuman deeds of the Zionists. Cries of protest against the Israeli fascists have echoed in the five continents of the world.

The people of the world demand an immediate end to the recent crimes of the Israeli Zionists, as well as the removal of the hands of the racist occupiers from the lives, property, honor, and territory of the Palestinians forever. Progressive humanity and world public opinion endorse the undeniable right of the deprived and victimized people of Palestine to their own independent country and to their own national and independent sovereignty.

Under such sensitive conditions, the hypocritical regime of Khomeyni, resorting to clamor and noise, supposedly in suport of the so-called Muslims of the land of Palestine, has decided to attain its own dirty expansionist and pan-Islamic objectives through reviving its divisive policy with regard to the movement of the Palestinian people.

By continuing the Iran-Iraq war, the warmongering regime of Khomeyni is doing what the United States and the Zionists desire. In practice, it thus has helped the implementation of the designs of the United States in the region and the bloody conspiracies perpetrated by the Zionists against the Palestinians and Arabs.

During the last few years, through large-scale arms purchases from Israel, the regime of the clerics has poured money into the coffers of this aggressor government and has made it a partner in the plundering of the wealth of our country for use against the deprived Palestinian people.

Now the regime is providing grist for the mill of the Zionists through pursuing a divisive policy, embarking on a psychological and ideological war against the progressive forces of Palestine and by an unmanly attack against the revolutionary organizations of the Palestinian people.

Whether in the past or at present, the Khomeyni regime has in practice been a helper to the bloodthirsty occupationists and against the aspirations of the Palestinians, and it continues to be so.

Compatriots, the Central Committee of the Feda'yeen-e Khalq organisation, Majority, invites you to expand as much as possible your support for the just struggle of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO. You must reveal all divisive efforts of the Khomeyni regime aimed at the national and democratic struggle of the Palestinian people and thus abort the regime's reactionary and expansionist policies. By intensifying your struggle against the warmongering regime of Khomeyni and by demanding an end to the devastating 7-year war, which has become the demand of all the peoples of the region, you abort the plots of the United States and the Israeli Zionists.

Victory belongs to the heroic Palestinian people. May the bloody hands of Zionists be cut away from the land of Palestine. Victory belongs to the just struggle of the Palestinian people. May the friendship and unity between the peoples of Iran and Palestine continue forever!

[Signed] The Central Committee of the Fada'yeen-e Khalq organization, Majority, 22 December 1987

Radio Analyzes Role of Lebanese 'Resistance'
NC231203 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0345 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Commentary by the Central News Unit Research Group: "The 'Martyrs of Palestine' Operations in Lebanon"]

[Excerpts] At dawn on Sunday, elements of the Lebanese Hizballah launched a heroic attack on forces dependent on the Zionist regime. The assault occurred in the area known as the security belt, and the enemy suffered powerful blows. During these operations, which were code-named "Martyrs of Palestine," the warriors of Lebanon's Islamic resistance destroyed 11 positions held by the Zionist forces and their hirelings in southern Lebanon. They also managed to liberate three enemy bases located in important and strategic areas. With artillery support, the Muslim Lebanese fighters set fire to a large quantity of the Zionist enemy's war materiel and killed or wounded 25 of the enemy in these heroic actions. A statement issued by the Islamic resistance of Lebanon last night notes that these operations, which were conducted in the heights east of Al-Nabatiyah, mark a new phase in the decisive war against the (?Zionist) enemy. [passage omitted]

Lebanon's Islamic resistance has launched many operations of this type in the current year. These actions are seen as a new phenomenon in the Islamic struggles against the Zionist regime. In the past, most anti-Zionist operations were carried out either by individuals or small groups. The military tactic displayed recently in southern Lebanon consists of operations by large groups several hundred strong. The fact that these actions are repeated clearly shows the military potential of the Islamic resistance, which is considered a noteworthy phenomenon from the political point of view. On one hand, the repetition of such operations reflects the defeat of the Zionist regime's strategy in its offensive against Lebanon. On the other, it is a sign of the ever-increasing emergence of Islamic resistance cells on the borders of occupied Palestine. Troubled by this development, the Zionist regime has tried to compensate for its defeat by shelling villages and Al-Nabatiyah. According to Lebanese officials, a number of people were martyred or wounded in a savage bombardment by two helicopters and artillery, and schools and shops in Al-Nabatiyah are closed. However, the Zionist regime kept silent about this criminal act and only the radio of Israel's hirelings announced that these acts were in response to the operations by Muslim revolutionaries.

At the same time, the "Martyrs of Palestine" action, which was launched in support of the Islamic uprising of Muslim Palestinians, manifests the all-embracing support of the Islamic ummah for the rights of Muslim Palestinians. The Palestinians' resistance is costing the Muslim people their lives and blood. Unfortunately, not only is this resistance not supported by the majority of Islamic regimes, but it is actually stabbed in the back.

UN Envoy on Full Cooperation To End Gulf War
LD231207 Tehran IRNA in English 1129 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 23, IRNA—Head of Iran's representative office at the United Nations Mohammad Ja'far Mahallati, said Monday that the Islamic Republic has fully cooperated with the U.N. secretary general, Javier Perez de Cuellar, to find a just solution to the Iraqi imposed war.

Mahallati added that despite Iraq's efforts to undercut Perez de Cuellar's initiatives Iran has unveiled Iraq's insincerity in its advocacy of peace.

Mahallati who was talking at a meeting of non-aligned members of the UN Security Council including Argentina, Ghana, Congo, Zambia and the United Arab Emirates explained Iran's stand towards the latest developments in the Iraqi imposed war and relevant issues brought up at the Security Council.

He stressed the urgency for the implementation of Article Five of the Security Council Resolution 598 and for the immediate withdrawal of foreign forces from the Persian Gulf.

On Iran's demand for war reparations, he said that Iran's expectations correspond with relevant international regulations, that they do not contravene the seventh article of the Security Council resolution, and that they offer Iraq no excuse to sabotage Perez de Cuellar's efforts.

Mahallati emphasised that Iraq has repeatedly breached the Security Council Resolution 598, noting that the renewed Iraqi attacks on oil and cargo ships in the Persian Gulf should top the Security Council's agenda for the next meet.

In conclusion he said the world community expects that the Iraqi Government be unequivocally named the aggressor party in the war, which, he said, is the first step in the Perez de Cuellar's peace formula.

REUTER Cited on Norwegian Tanker Attack
LD241155 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] Citing shipping sources, REUTER reports that a Norwegian oil tanker was hit by gunboats yesterday, 25 miles off the Dubai coast. It was set ablaze.

The report notes that the 285,400-tonne tanker, which had loaded at Ras al-Tanurah port in Saudi Arabia, was hit on the starboard side. No report has yet been received on the extent of the damage inflicted on this vessel.

Peshmergas Kill Senior Iraqi Officer

LD231652 Tehran IRNA in English 1455 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 23, IRNA—A senior Iraqi officer Colonel 'Abd al-Rahman Ibrahim and eleven Ba'thist soldiers were killed, while ten others were captured in a series [words indistinct] the report, released by Ramadan Headquarters [words indistinct] of Iraqi ammunitions and other military equipment were seized intact by the peshmergas.

The operations were launched on Dukan-Sulaymaniyah highway in Al-Sulaymaniyah Province and near Chamchamal town in Kirkuk Province, concluded Ramadan Headquarters, the guerrilla warfare center of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC).

Pakistan

Police Battle Rioting Prisoners in Karachi Jail

BK240026 Hong Kong AFP in English 2346 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Karachi, Pakistan, Dec 23 (AFP)—Pakistani police fired tear gas to quell rioting in the central prison here Wednesday which has left at least ten people injured, witnesses said.

All the prison's gates were closed and police jeeps and trucks carrying reinforcements were seen rushing to the jail, which houses some 3,000 inmates, after the trouble broke out at around 6.00 p.m. (1300 GMT).

The cause of the rioting was not immediately known.

The leader of the Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), Altaf Hussain, and some 400 MQM activists were among the inmates, sources said.

The MQM, which groups the city's Urdu-speaking population, has been campaigning for better treatment for those people who came here from India after partition and the creation of Pakistan in 1947.

They have been jailed on charges of rioting following some of the worst communal clashes seen here in the past two years in which they battled the rival Pakhtun Punjabi Ittehad.

It was not immediately clear if the police had intervened to stop clashes between the two groups.

Local reports said the prisoners were demanding better facilities.

The Prisoners Aid Society chief, Ansar Burney, recently drew the government's attention to poor conditions in the over-crowded prison.

Afghan Agent Sentenced to Death for Bombing

BK240240 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] A special court set up in Peshawar to investigate terrorist activities has handed down sentences of life imprisonment and death to a Khad [Afghan secret police] agent after his conviction in two cases of bombings in the town.

Zain Noorani Status Upgraded to Federal Minister

BK240238 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] A notification issued by the cabinet states that Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo has decided that the status of Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zain Noorani will be equal to that of a cabinet minister. He will also enjoy the privileges and facilities of a federal minister.

YAR President Leaves Islamabad for Beijing

BK240636 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has reaffirmed that his country wholeheartedly supports Pakistan's efforts for a political settlement of the Afghanistan issue so that Afghan refugees can return to their homes with honor and dignity. He made comment to newsmen at Islamabad airport before leaving for Beijing at the end of his 3-day state visit to Pakistan.

The YAR president described his talks with Pakistani leaders as very useful. He said that he had exchanged views with President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo on international issues of mutual interest, as well as discussing bilateral matters. President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih thanked the president, prime minister, government, and people of Pakistan for according his delegation a warm welcome and hospitality. He was seen off at the airport by President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo. Federal ministers, ministers of state, members of parliament, members of the diplomatic corps, and senior officials were also present. The airport ceremony included a 21-gun salute and a guard of honor comprising smartly-dressed contingents from the three services.

Sri Lanka

4 IPKF Killed, 10 Wounded by LTTE Blasts

BK231245 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1227 GMT 23 Dec 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text) Colombo, Dec 23 (LANKA PUWATH)—Three members of the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) were killed and four wounded by an LTTE terrorist landmine at Nunavil, Chavacheri, about 31 kilometres east of Jaffna Town yesterday, official sources told LANKA PUWATH.

In another incident, one IPKF soldier was killed and six others wounded when they were defusing a terrorist explosive device they had detected.

President Receives Iranian Finance Minister
LD231752 Tehran IRNA in English 1559 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 23, IRNA—Iranian Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs Mohammad Javad Iravani met Sri Lankan President Junius Jayewardene in Colombo Wednesday, and submitted him a message from his Iranian counterpart Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Khamene'i.

Iravani informed President Jayewardene that the Islamic Republic's foreign policy is based on promotion of ties with Third World and non-aligned countries. He also announced Iran's support for Sri Lanka's territorial integrity and independence.

He also cited the resumption of the Joint Tehran-Colombo Economic Commission after a lapse of 11 years, as a proof of the great importance the Islamic Republic attaches to expansion of its ties with Sri Lanka.

The economic and financial affairs minister expressed hope that the Joint Tehran-Colombo Economic Commission could explore the grounds for expansion of mutual relations.

On the Iraqi-imposed war, Iravani reiterated that the Islamic Republic will continue its sacred defence until the cause of aggression (Iraqi Ba'thist regime) is uprooted.

He also cited the presence of foreign naval fleets, particularly those of the U.S., in the Persian Gulf as the main cause of tension in the region, saying that Iran believes that regional security will be restored once foreign fleets leave the region.

In response, the Sri Lankan president lauded the Islamic Republic for its assistance to his country, and the Iranian delegation for its presence in Colombo.

President Jayewardene expressed hope that the U.N. and the Non-aligned Movement could succeed in bringing an end to the war and tension in the Persian Gulf.